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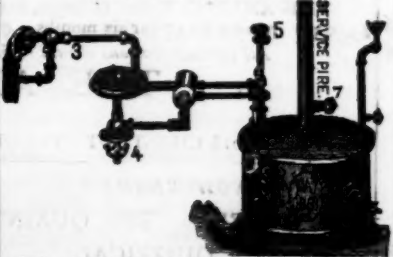
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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE first topic in any review of this week must be a glance at the year. It has not been a remarkable year in any sense, except in the history of Astronomy, through the transit of Venus. It will be remembered in history chiefly for the death of EMERSON, DARWIN, AUERBACH, GARIBALDI, THURLOW WEED, Dr. PUSEY, Archbishop TAIT, and others of less note. It has witnessed no decisive wars, that in Egypt having made no new departure in the world's history, and that in South Africa having terminated ingloriously. It has seen no great calamities, nor are its records defiled by extraordinary or exceptional crime. The economic disturbances of the year—the panic in Paris, the great strikes in America, and the land troubles in Ireland—constitute its darkest records. In the main, it has been a year of beneficent progress, marked by a growing disposition to demand and expect righteousness between nation and nation, as between man and man.

CONGRESS failed to adjourn over Christmas week, the Senate refusing to concur in the House's resolution for a holiday. But there does not seem to have been any great gain through the refusal to take a vacation. The attendance in both bodies was much diminished, both before they adjourned and when they met on Wednesday, and the disposition to work was not very visible.

In the Senate, the Democratic opposition to the PENDLETON Bill became stronger and better organized, when the Republicans showed a disposition to take it up; and there was an intention apparent to talk it to death by wearisome and irrelevant speeches. But when the measure came to a vote finally on Wednesday, only five votes were recorded in the negative, seven others who would have voted No, having paired with friends of the bill. It was very easy to show that the measure is in sharp contrast to recent Republican action; but that proves nothing. Republicans always have assumed the liberty of learning by experience and of acquiescing in the verdicts of public opinion. They are not the people who neither learn nor forget.

More pertinent was the objection that all places being now filled with Republican incumbents, and the bill providing for promotion from the lower places to the higher in the Civil Service, the Democrats, even if they win the elections of 1884, will secure nothing but the places at the head of the departments and bureaus, and the privilege of competing for the lowest places. To politicians who have been steeped all their lives in the opinion that the Civil Service is a means of rewarding political supporters, this must seem an unjust arrangement. They would think it fairer to start the new system after making a division of the places already filled by appointment, or by throwing open at once to a general competition all the places in the service which hereafter are to be filled either by competition or by promotion. And, while the Reformers will regard these proposals as not to be entertained, we think that the average American will incline to the belief that the introduction of the new system should be accompanied by a fairer divide between the parties. As matters stand, it does look a little like giving the Republicans an entail of the offices, just at the moment when the Democrats might profit by the retention of the old system.

Of course, we agree heartily with the Reformers in holding that consideration of party advantage should not enter into the discussion and decision of this question, and that it would be especially unfortunate to give a public sanction to such reasons in the very measure which is to declare them no longer applicable to the public service. Nevertheless, we must take human nature as it is, and we believe that this is a difficulty in the way of the new plan, though not an insuperable one.

A MUCH more serious objection to it, in some quarters, is one which finds little or no expression in the debate. It is that education is very

unequally distributed throughout the country, and, therefore, that to throw all appointments open to a general competition would be to give some sections a much larger share of the offices than falls to the rest. New England, possibly, would get more than the combined South and West. To the Reformer this objection will seem as irrelevant as the other. He has set his mind simply on securing a Civil Service emancipated from partisan influences, and based upon intellectual capacity, so far as this can be tested by competitive examinations. He does not see why the country should care whether a whole bureau of the Treasury is filled with Connecticut men, or whether Indiana and Texas get a share. And here we sympathize with him even more strongly than before. We should like to see all sectional and local considerations ignored in filling places in the general Government, and places given to men simply as Americans and as the most competent for the place. We saw no reason, for instance, for not giving New York two places in Mr. GARFIELD'S Cabinet, if that State had another man as exceptionally fit as Mr. JAMES was for the Post Office. And we see no reason for refusing to Kansas or Nebraska the right to send a citizen of Massachusetts or Vermont to the House or to the Senate, if their people should happen to think him better fitted than any man of their own. But, so long as this prejudice about section and locality exists, we must take account of it, and especially since it receives a very distinct sanction from the national Constitution. After all, we are not a compact little group of islands, like the United Kingdom, with everything centred in one huge London. And, while it is a matter of rejoicing that loyalty to the national authority is now a dominant sentiment in every corner of the land except Utah, we must not ignore the existence of feelings which are a survival of that semi-colonial period of our history, which came to an end only twenty years ago. Even in the United Kingdom the difficulty is felt. The English competitors for places complain that they are crowded out by long-headed Scotchmen and quick-witted Irishmen, and while no proposal for a localization of competition has been made in Parliament, it has been suggested and discussed outside of that body. In the case of India, the places in the Civil Service are secured to British and Irish competitors, to the exclusion of educated Hindoos, by the simple device of holding the examinations in London.

The amendment to the PENDLETON Bill, adopted in the Senate without opposition, we regard as a disagreeable but unavoidable necessity. It makes an assignment of the clerkships among the various States in proportion to population, and throws open the allotment of each State to the competition of all the people of that State. The amendment will be distasteful to Mr. EATON and the other especial promoters of the Reform. This we regret, for we should like their experiment to be made, if at all, in a shape to which they can themselves take no exception. But, after all, the bill, even as amended, will accomplish the results they have chiefly in view. It will put an end to partisan appointments, and will secure the places to the successful men within a more limited range of competition.

THE Committee of Ways and Means continue their labors on the Report of the Tariff Commission, but after a fashion which is sure to secure a prolonged debate in both House and Senate, and perhaps to defeat the measure itself. Their changes in the matter of the duties on metals and metallic products seem of the most doubtful expediency. Why, for instance, do we need a duty of more than 90 per cent. on lead ore? And what is the use of having had a Commission study the subject if their report needs to be touched, not here and there, but through a long series of articles, and always in the character of increased duties? These changes are not demanded by the representatives of these industries. Their attitude toward the matter is well represented by the discussions in the conference of Western iron-men.

at Pittsburg. Some of these manufacturers made complaint of the recommendations of the Report, but the general feeling was in favor of its adoption just as it stands, for the reason, among others, that it would put a stop to the agitation for the reduction of duties. We fear that these additions of duty will defeat this hope.

On one point, over which Mr. J. S. MOORE is agitated, the Committee are right in imposing higher duties. We mean the duties on iron and steel articles "not otherwise provided for." For years past, articles of this description having borne low duties, every kind of ingenuity has been exercised to transfer this or that article to this denomination. Every change in the manufacture or use of iron has given fresh opportunities for this kind of evasion, which will continue until the duties on unclassified articles is put higher, not lower, than on those which are classified.

On the sugar duties, the recommendations of both Commission and Committee seem to us unsatisfactory. The present duties were fixed during Mr. BRISTOW's Secretaryship of the Treasury, and upon his recommendation, as a revenue measure simply. He feared a deficit, and asked an increased duty on sugar, just as he might have asked a duty on tea or coffee or spices. The Commission did not propose to lower the duties to the level at which Mr. BRISTOW found them; and the Committee proposes to fix them at a higher rate than that suggested by the Commission, still retaining the farcical classification of the Dutch standard, which has broken down utterly since cheap ways of coloring high-grade sugars were devised. As Protectionists, we protest against these duties on an article which we must import, and which every American household must use. Sugar should be put upon the free list.

THE proposal to remove all the burdens imposed by national and State laws upon American shipping, meets with general approval, the *Evening Post* being the only exception known to us. It proposes to postpone this legislation to the opening of our registration to foreign built vessels. It says it will be time enough for this new legislation when Americans are free to buy ships wherever they can get them at the lowest price. This is the candor, not of all Free Traders, but of some. The *New York Times* admits that Americans can buy and own as many vessels of foreign build as they please, and that nothing but registration is refused them. The *Post* knows this equally well, but we do not remember ever to have seen it admitted in the frequent discussion of the subject in its columns.

Some time back, the *Post* lectured the Protectionists for their obscurantism, taking for its text the break-down of a lecture-course in a manufacturing town, because the committee had invited somebody to advocate Free Trade, without asking anyone to speak for Protection. To this it opposed the generous conduct of the Revenue Reform Club of Brooklyn, which sandwiched two Protectionists among its dozen of Free Trade lecturers last winter. The *Post* forgets that it reported all the Free Trade lectures delivered before the Club, but avoided all mention of those by the two Protectionists. And, more recently, it published the charges brought by an anonymous letter-writer in the *Boston Herald* against the New England manufacturers of knit-goods, but made no reference to the conclusive refutations of these charges, which were furnished by the *Advertiser* and the *Journal*. All this is nothing new for the *Post*. It pursued the same policy of suppression and misrepresentation under previous editors. It was months before Mr. GREELEY's repeated challenges induced it to print the table of comparative prices of dry-goods in 1859 and 1869, furnished by A. T. STEWART to Mr. DAVID A. WELLS.

THE President has made a bad blunder in nominating Mr. OLMSTEAD for the position of Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and one which he should retrieve without loss of time. A glance at Mr. OLMSTEAD's antecedents shows that he has been implicated with the famous Mr. KILBURN in worse than doubtful operations in real estate, and that he was the first to offer himself as Mr. BRADY's surety, when the ex-Assistant Secretary of the Post-Office Department was arrested for his share in the Star-Route iniquities. None of this, we may be sure, was known to the President when he was nominated; but Mr. ARTHUR may be thankful for the vigilant scrutiny now extended to such nominations, as it has prevented his Administration being implicated

with such a character. The truth is, that our system of partisan management has led to the saturation of Washington with bad influences; and it is safer to take a man from any corner of the country than give an appointment to a resident of the capital.

THE Democratic nomination for the Presidency already is an object of desire to rising statesmen; and it is felt that either Indiana or New York has the best claim to it. In New York, Mr. CLEVELAND has his record to make; and should he prove a good Governor, he will be a very formidable competitor for the nomination. As Mr. TILDEN is at last conceded to be out of the race, there is no other New Yorker who can be named.

In Indiana, Senator MACDONALD is generally regarded as the coming man; but he has by no means a monopoly. Mr. VOORHEES still thinks that political, like other, lightning should show a preference for the tallest trees; and Mr. HENDRICKS declines to be a party to any arrangement which contemplates his acceptance of a secondary position, such as the Governorship of the State. Unless the Democrats do better in Congress than they have during the past month, all such discussions are idle. The voters who care for reform, and who hold the balance of power, have been given reason already to believe that they have nothing to hope, and much to fear, from the elevation of the Democratic party to power.

In Ohio, besides the election of a successor to Mr. UPDEGRAFF, there is a discussion as to the next Senatorship, for which Mr. PAYNE—a Democratic friend of Mr. GARFIELD'S—is put forward by his friends. As Ohio has a Republican Legislature, and it is by no means certain that the State will not elect another, this discussion seems to us a little too anticipatory.

SENATOR BROWN, of Georgia, in the heat of a political campaign, promised fifty thousand dollars to the State University. When the tender was made formally, it was found to be accompanied by such conditions that an act of the Legislature was needed to enable the University to accept it. For one thing, the scholarships created were to be filled by Mr. BROWN while he lived, and by his sons if they survived him. Each beneficiary was to give his note to repay the amount advanced him with interest, within a specified number of years. And the principal was to be invested in State bonds bearing seven per cent. interest, and left in the custody of the State. The Legislature of the State very properly refused to accept a gift so limited. Apart from the aristocratic limitations, which gave most offence, the plan of repayment is very objectionable. "Note scholarships" have been tried in a great many of our institutions. The notes given cannot create any legal obligation, as the signers are invariably under age. It seldom happens that those who graduate on this footing have both the means and the inclination to discharge this debt of honor, even when the principal only is asked. The institution finds that it has accomplished nothing by the arrangement, except to give young men a lesson in the light use of their word. But Mr. BROWN thinks he is above the lessons of experience, and has offered his fifty thousand dollars on the same conditions to the University of South Carolina.

In decided contrast is Mr. GEORGE BANCROFT'S gift to the city of Worcester, his native place. As a memorial of his deceased parents—his father was pastor of a Worcester parish—he endows a scholarship, to be open to the boys of the city's schools in such a manner as the authorities may prescribe. Although a graduate of Harvard, Mr. BANCROFT puts no restriction on the choice of the holder of the scholarship. He may attend whichever college he pleases. This we regard as eminently sensible, and we hope that Mr. BANCROFT will find many imitators. One such scholarship will do more for the cause of education than many a richly endowed but useless professorship tacked on to a college which needs money for its general use, not endowments for special and novel purposes.

THE new industrial census of Philadelphia, taken by Mr. LORIN BLODGET, with the help of our city's police force, is on the eve of completion; and it is claimed that it will show that that taken two years ago fell far below the actual figures of our industrial growth. We regret that there should be no simple and direct way of composing the dispute between the census authorities and those who think we were unfairly

treated. We hope that Mr. BLODGET will give to the public the names of the establishments excluded from the census report, and that Congress will order an additional investigation, to verify these names and the returns which accompany them. This much we think due to our city; but we decidedly dissent from the language used by a few of our newspapers with reference to General WALKER, and in that dissent we are sustained by the great body of the city's newspapers. We think General WALKER capable, of course, of errors of judgment, but quite incapable of anything unworthy of his public position and his standing as a gentleman and a statist.

Mr. WALKER has replied to a portion only of the charges brought against the recent census of our industries, and to our thinking not the most important portion. He discusses the average annual product of a workingman in different cities, to meet the attempt to prove an internal contradiction in the census returns for Philadelphia. His answer seems quite satisfactory on this single point. But we have not seen from either Mr. WALKER or his successor in charge of the census, any notice of the specific charge that the census of our industries was stopped in November, while that of New York was continued into the following year, some results being reported and accepted as late as July of 1881. And we must add that, having consulted, recently, experts in several branches of manufacture,—none of them being Philadelphians,—we were surprised to find that not one of them regarded the census returns as having any claim to thoroughness and accuracy.

THE *Times* of this city, in urging upon Councils the necessity of appointing a superintendent of our city's schools, speaks of the ward boards of school directors as a satisfactory feature of our present system, and one which should be left as it is. We think this statement has been made by a gentleman who has not looked very closely into the facts. The ward boards of directors, as at present constituted, are simply the first step in political promotion. They are filled with sucking politicians of all ages, who look forward to seats in Council, or to more remunerative offices. And they are managed with strict reference to a partisan use of vacancies in the schools. So long as they remain in possession of their present powers and influence, the appointment of a superintendent would be useful only as tending to prove the necessity for abolishing them.

So far as we are able to judge, there is no difference of opinion amongst Southern educators as to the imperative need of aid for their schools from the national government. What Dr. RUFFNER, of Virginia, elsewhere says on the subject is strictly to the point, and is endorsed emphatically by Mr. NEWELL, of Maryland, the Superintendent of Public Instruction in that State. These are but samples of many voices. The universal testimony, in all parts of the South, is that the burden of illiteracy thrown upon society there is too great to be effectively dealt with by the States. They would be heavily weighted if they had only to support the weight of white illiteracy, for this, as shown by the returns, is everywhere serious, and, in some States, alarmingly large, but when the colored people are also to be considered, the problem immediately grows beyond control. Compared with the Northern States—even the average; not such as Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and others, favored by abundant grants of public lands for school purposes—the States of the South present their case with conditions unfavorably reversed in both its great particulars. They have a greater ratio of illiterates to deal with, and they have a smaller taxable wealth with which to provide means of education. If they had as much revenue available for schools, or if they had as general a degree of education, they would still suffer in one particular; but, as it is, they suffer in both. They have a greater burden, and less strength.

THE year ends gloomily in Ireland. The new Coercion Bill has produced a state of public feeling very like that which existed under Mr. FORSTER. Popular leaders are to be arrested and imprisoned, though not now without trial, for violations of statutes passed in the reign of CHARLES I., under the rule of WENTWORTH,—a part of that system of "Thorough" by which he and his master plunged three kingdoms in a bloody civil war. Mr. BIGGAR, Mr. DAVITT and Mr. O'BRIEN are not charged with inciting the people to crime or to revolt.

Their offence is their bringing the administration of justice into contempt by too free speech about Lord SPENCER and Judge LAWSON. They have not exceeded the license taken in England by Lord CHURCHILL in his denunciations of Mr. GLADSTONE, or by the late Mr. KENEALY in denouncing Judge COLERIDGE. No Parliament of this century could be induced to pass a law which would prohibit the liberty they have taken; the Coercion Act, with all its ultra-paternal and meddlesome severities, does not do so. But they are to be punished none the less, if this conciliatory Government can compass it. We do not justify the three gentlemen who are accused. They use language which only befits men who have taken the sword in hand and mean to stake their lives on the result. Yet not one of them is a nationalist in the sense of readiness to fight for a forcible dissolution of the Union. People who expect to accomplish their ends by peaceful agitation, should keep their speech within the bounds of peaceful discussion.

THE English newspapers show a remarkable awakening of interest in the Tariff discussion in this country. Apparently, it had quite escaped their attention, until they found some mention of the Commission and its proposed reduction of duties in the bogus account of the President's Message which was telegraphed them before the meeting of Congress. They get American newspapers now and then, but they do not seem to take the trouble to read any but those which represent Free Trade, and which have been assuring them that the Commission was merely a device to prevent Tariff revision.

The report of reductions in our duties gives them great satisfaction, chiefly because they attribute these to some popular clamor against the Protective policy, which may lead on to Free Trade. As a matter of fact, the revision is effected in the interest of Protection, to remove abuses and anomalies which might be made a handle for such agitation.

It is rather curious that our English friends should be so eager to see America adopt Free Trade. They always profess to believe that our present policy cripples our manufactures, by restricting exports, and thus prevents our becoming their most dangerous rivals. Are we to believe that they are going into ecstasies of joy over the prospect that a general reduction of prices and wages in America is about to bring us face-to-face with them as competitors in every market of the world? Which half are we to believe—their economic doctrines, or their spontaneous rejoicings?

FRANCE is not talking of an immediate expedition against Madagascar, and fortunately she has escaped the necessity of one to Tonquin, the Chinese having evacuated the disputed territory. But she is about to dispatch an expeditionary force to die of fever on the Congo Coast, and perhaps to be ready for action in Madagascar, should the opportunity arise.

Meanwhile, she has reached the bounds of England's patience as regards the settlement of Egyptian affairs. After standing tamely to see the Joint Control overthrown by the insurrection, and refusing to help England to set it up again, she proposes to retain her full half of interest and influence in the reconstruction which has resulted from the war. England has decided, very properly, to lay the matter before Europe in a note addressed to the powers severally, and to go calmly forward with the settlement of Egyptian affairs, unless Europe unites to resist her policy.

AUSTRIAN authorities have ordered an investigation into the nature and claims of Spiritualism, having observed that it is a frequent cause of mental aberrations. This is the first Government that has taken up the matter, and the results of the investigation may be beneficial beyond the bounds of the dual Empire. The subject of Spiritualism has come to attract a good deal of attention on the Continent of Europe during the past twelve years. The authority of such men as Professor ZOECKLER of Leipzig, Professors ULRICH and FICHTE of Halle, and Professor HOFFMANN of Würzburg, has given an authority to its pretences, which it is far from enjoying in America; zealous propagandists like ALLAN KARDIC, GOLDSTÜCKER and SLADE have carried its doctrines by voice and pen to the great centres of population; and the general decay of religious faith among the educated classes has created a vacuum which Spiritualism promises to fill. "Where there are no gods, ghosts bear rule," says NOVALIS.

The strength of the pretensions of spiritualism lies in the general ignorance of the less usual, but not less authentic, facts of human experience. The disclosures made recently by Mr. CLEVELAND, in New York, as to the power of one mind to get at the contents of another without the utterance of word or sign, furnish an instance of this. The exploits of Planchette prove a similar transcendence of ordinary limits by the human will. Had our men of science given these things a thorough probing, instead of shunning the whole matter as humbug, the number of believers in the divinity of these mysteries would be much fewer than they are.

[See News Summary, page 190.]

LASTING MUNICIPAL REFORM.

IT has been well observed that the American people make a very poor distribution of their political energies. The points on which we have concentrated the greatest interest and anxiety are not those which really concern us the most, or whose neglect will damage us the most. For instance, the affairs of the nation take an amount of time and zeal which is out of all relation to their practical importance, at least in times of peace. Politics means to the average citizen little else than the issue between parties at Washington. Politics means the election of a President and of a Congress to our minds, and the pursuit of some definite policy in national affairs. If we had a thoroughly centralized system of government like that of France, this would be natural enough. An omnipotent national government, with the power to interfere wherever it pleased, would need our whole attention. Or if the question of the relation of the local governments to the central were quite unsettled, as was the case in America before the war, and still is the case in Switzerland, the absorption of national attention by national politics would be intelligible, though to be regretted. But, as a matter of fact, we are in possession of a pretty well defined distribution of power, in which the national government has certain definite tasks to perform, and there is little room for any great difference of opinion as to the internal relations of the system.

What we need is not a fresh outburst of talk about local self-government, but such a fair division of public attention as will secure a better organization and a more faithful administration of such local self-government as we have. One might suppose that mere self-interest would be sufficient for the purpose. No governments have so much power to help and to hinder as local governments,—the government of city, county and township. They are, taken all together, probably more costly, a greater burden on the resources of the people, than the state and the national governments are. Their attention to duty or neglect of it, is bound up with the most serious consequences to every one of us. Their inattention to common sanitary precautions may desolate our families with pestilence. Their defective regulations may put it into the power of our neighbors to surround our homes with nuisances to sense of sight or of smell. Upon their zeal, intelligence and good judgment depend the attractiveness and the character of that neighborhood which touches us every day and at every point of our lives. And their annual requisition for direct taxes we feel more heavily than we do the nation's great drafts for hundreds of millions upon its collective population.

The existing organization of our local governments is one of the most vicious that could be devised. It is constructed upon the principle that the liberties and rights of the people are to be secured, not by patriotic vigilance, but by distrustful arrangements for the restraint of its representatives. The first point in the plan is to reduce executive power of every kind to a minimum by putting its acts under the veto of a council, and by increasing the number of elective offices. The second is to sunder from control of the general executive the various subordinate departments of government. The third is to diffuse responsibility in those departments by putting them under the control, not of a single head, but of a board or commission or council of some kind. The effect of these three mischievous blunders is to annihilate, practically, the principle of responsibility, to facilitate the formation of "rings" and conspiracies, and to give malfeasants in office impunity until the tide of popular indignation rises high enough to sweep everything before it. We first construct a system calculated to suggest and promote abuses, and then spend years of energy in getting up a popular rage against the men we have been tempting.

The cure must come from a reorganization of our city governments, after the general plan which has worked so well in Brooklyn. Before January of 1881, Brooklyn was in at least as bad a plight as is Philadelphia. She had powerful "rings" who stole and wasted her money, and neglected the duties of government. Three foul pestilences seemed to have effected a permanent lodgment within her borders. Great areas had been paved, sewered and lighted in advance of any possible settlement by years. Her debt was increasing at a rate that promised to put her beside New York and Philadelphia. And her local complexion in politics being generally contrary to that of the Albany Legislature, there was a constant and vexatious interference in city affairs by commissions and other contrivances, which helped neither to economy nor to good government.

At last, the people of the city induced the Legislature to let them try an experiment. The appointment of the heads of departments was placed in the hands of the Mayor, and nobody was given any veto or control of his selections. All the departments which had been vested in boards, with the exception of the Park Commission, were placed under single responsible chiefs. The principles of the reform are well expressed by Mayor Low in an address made on the eve of the recent election:—

It practically says to the Mayor, "You carry on the business affairs of Brooklyn; choose your own instruments and we shall hold you responsible for the work done. You shall be responsible for the efficiency of every department through your appointees. You cannot shirk it if you want to, and we shall hold you responsible, Mr. Mayor, for the faithfulness and the efficiency and the honesty of every workman the city employs. . . . We will give the Mayor the power to conduct the city's business, and then we will weight him with the responsibility of the whole concern."

Brooklyn has gone through pretty much the same experience in its efforts to get good city government that every other large city has had. We have had non-partisan boards; we have had our triple-headed commissions; and now we have come down to single-headed departments. The old idea seemed to be that, if you only could divide the power, the people would run less risk. But the difficulty with every such scheme of that sort was that it broke down just here: There always was found power to do harm, but there never was found power enough to do good; and by just so much as you divided the power, you divided the responsibility; and you found all sorts of mischief done by rings, and the people could not lay their hands on the man to hold to account.

Let me tell you my objections to a triple-headed appointing power. It does not represent the judgment of three men, in preference to the judgment of one, but it represents the best understanding that the three can reach. I venture to think that under such an arrangement, nine times out of ten, you would get the poorest judgment of the three, rather than the best.

Under this new charter, the city has been governed for nearly two years. Its first effect was to make the office of Mayor an object of laudable ambition to a better class of citizens. The current system makes the Mayor a chief of police in most of our cities. The charter of Brooklyn places the government of a great city in the hands of one responsible official. Mr. SETH Low would not have accepted the office of Mayor in New York or Philadelphia; but he took that of Brooklyn, because the office meant something. He selected the heads of departments as the President selects his Cabinet, with a view to their trustworthiness and their capacity, and under a pledge that they would send him their resignations as soon as he asked them. He then made each of them master in his department, leaving to them the selection of subordinates, and exacting nothing but honesty and efficiency. The result is seen in every part of the city government. It is a partisan government no longer. Competent men are employed, and no questions are asked as to their politics. It is thoroughly efficient. Bad jobs which were kept on hand for years, to furnish new opportunities for speculation, have been finished off and done with. The growth of the debt has stopped, save as the State had forced outlays on the bridge. The affairs of the Bridge Commission have been brought into the daylight. The health of the city has been cared for, and the laws enforced vigorously. In fine, the "city of churches" has made such progress in the matter of a safe, cheap and efficient government, as makes its people proud to be known as citizens of Brooklyn, the revolted subjects of Mr. Boss McLAUGHLIN.

It is just on the same lines that a lasting municipal reform must move in Philadelphia. Its outlines are—

(1.) The reduction of elective city officers to the Mayor and one Council.

(2.) The vesting of the power to appoint and to remove heads of departments in the Mayor, without requiring any approval from the Council.

(3.) The establishment of a single responsible head for each of the departments, including city charities, education, health, highways, parks, and all the rest; and the complete abolition of boards of every sort. In the case of the school system, a superintendent for the whole city, an assistant superintendent in each district, should replace the present Board of Education and ward directors.

(4.) The extension of the term of office for elective officials to three or four years, we should regard as desirable, but by no means essential to the reform.

THE PENSION EXPENDITURE.

WITH the utmost confidence, it may be declared that the genuine soldiers of the national armies who served in the late war do not desire to part with all the merit of their service for the receipt of a money consideration. They did not enter the army for money's sake, but they did regard themselves as sacrificing something—comfort, convenience, health, and possibly life—for the common welfare. Such was and is the estimate placed upon their service, and it is safe to assume that they are altogether unready and unwilling to be put in the attitude of demanding so great a money compensation from the country as to deprive that service of all claim to public gratitude.

This being the case, it is well for the soldiers themselves to consider whether any further classes of pensions should be created than those now existing. Provision has been already made for all who were injured by their service, and for those dependent upon them. The "arrears" bill has added to the expenditure in this direction so enormously that the item for pensions in the annual account of the Treasury is now over one hundred millions of dollars, and this sum might even be made still larger, if the clerical capacity of the Pension Bureau were able to more rapidly adjust the great mass of claims. In the meantime, plans are being matured for new forms of pensions; it is proposed to pay an annual gratuity to every surviving person who took any part in the military service, in the War of 1812, or the Mexican War, regardless whether he was in any way injured or disabled.

To three classes of persons there is occasion for warning on account of these mischievous measures. One of these is the Union soldiers, of whom we have already spoken. It will be an unfortunate day for them when they permit their claims upon the gratitude of their country to be equalled in the general public estimation by the extent of their demands for money compensation. They may, in fact, never be sufficiently repaid; money could not liquidate their account, so long as they stand upon the ground of patriotism and sacrifice; but if they allow themselves to leave this, they put themselves upon a false ground, where they are apparently carrying a mere banner of spoils, under the leadership of the claim agents.

A second class who should take alarm, are the people generally. They should understand that the efforts to bleed the Treasury, renewed at each and every moment of the Government's existence, may be plausibly hidden behind the cover of the soldiers' service, and that they are never more dangerous than when so concealed. If it be reasonable to place upon the public rolls every man who served in the former wars, even for a few days, why is it not a hundred times more fit to place there men who rendered real service for months and years in defence of the Union? The Commissioner of Pensions estimates that there is over a million of "surviving soldier population, out of which claims for pensions in the future may be made." The question may well be asked where there is to be an end, if any new form of gratuity or pension is permitted to come into vogue.

To the third class who need admonition, the case very urgently addresses itself. These are the members of Congress from the Northern States. They find it hard to refuse to vote money for the Union soldiers. But they must begin to look whether they will not be digging their own political graves, if they enlarge the already enormous pension expenditure. They have just seen how the public regarded the river and harbor bill; the fact that it contained very many—probably a large majority—of meritorious items did not prevent, or even qualify, the condemnation laid upon those who were concerned in passing it. They

urged in vain that much of it was demanded by sound commercial considerations; the people repudiated it and its authors, because they were convinced that the measure was tainted by a wasteful spirit, and that, as fraud vitiates every transaction in law, so this sort of public profligacy blackened an appropriation bill that, in the main, might be right and honest enough. The same thing will occur in the pension business, if any further outpouring of the public money is made. The men who vote for such measures may find themselves embarrassed how to act at present, but they may be perfectly sure that if they move in the direction of increasing the pension expenditure they will not escape condemnation and defeat, hereafter.

The pinch of this business falls especially upon the members from the North, because they represent the great body of national soldiers, and also because the Southern members, whichever way they vote, will not be held to any strict accountability. If they vote against further pensions, their own constituents are not likely to be offended, and, if they vote in favor of them, it may be explained at home that this—as in the case of payments to all of the 1812 and Mexican survivors—would be the entering wedge to pensions for wounded Confederates. They are therefore quite easy in regard to the subject; they can hardly weaken their own positions by a vote either way. They might be inclined, perhaps, to forward the demand for new and increased pension expenditures, if they did not see that every step in this direction must tend to prevent every sort of tax reduction and tariff revision.

To the Union soldiers, themselves, and to the Northern members of Congress, the matter must therefore be left, at present. A word to the wise will perhaps be enough, in so plain a case.

MR. BRYCE ON AMERICAN POLITICS.

THE December number of the *Fortnightly Magazine* contains an admirable article by Mr. James Bryce, M. P., author of that capital book, "The Holy Roman Empire," and by virtue of that and other claims Professor of History at Oxford. Mr. Bryce has paid more than one visit to this country, and his last sojourn here was with Mr. Freeman, both lecturing to large audiences. Now that Mr. Freeman has just given, at great length, in a succession of magazine articles, his views of Americans and their institutions, Mr. Bryce in turn furnishes his opinion and observations on "Some Aspects of American Public Life." His own experience of English politics, both on the hustings and in Parliament, stands him in good stead in his comparison of the two countries, and, in this respect, pupil as he is and follower of Mr. Freeman in his school of historical studies, the elder man, with his reclusive habits of life, stands at a disadvantage, as measured by the freer and broader scope, and the more mature as well as more acute view, of the younger and later writer. Mr. Bryce takes as his text the novel called "Democracy," which fell so flat upon its publication here, had so surprising a reception in England, and has since, by a sort of reflex action, found a number of readers in this country, and has been honored with a French translation.

Mr. Bryce declares roundly that America is no worse than England in possessing political characters whose faults, and even vices, outweigh their merits, and that there are plenty of public men in Washington just as upright, fair-minded and high-minded as most of the leading politicians in England. He urges his English readers not to be misled by exaggerations, or to trust to American newspapers or novels for the real condition of American politics, while he manfully calls on Americans to improve the efficiency of their administration, and to put a stop to jobbery of public work, and encourages those who have already set to work to stop the leaks in the ship of state. He points out the fact that, while in England the political life of the country is its main, its central, its highest social life, the chief occupation of the men most conspicuous by rank and talents, the great game for ambition and the widest field for patriotic and philanthropic effort, in America it is not the main or central current of its life, but a kind of side-channel encumbered by weeds and bushes. He shows by his own experience, during a stay of four months in this country, that politics are almost never the subject of discussion as they are in England, and that many Americans look on government as a matter of small interest and no moment, a view that is at least justified by the extraordinary elasticity of its finances and the almost absolute freedom of individual and corporate enterprise in every direction. Volunteers do in this country, and more or less well, a thousand things that in England, and still more on the Continent, are left to the Government, or in which its officers interfere to so great an extent as to take all individual initiative out of the question. The whole sphere of action of politicians is more restricted as, on account of the sharp divisions between national, state and municipal affairs, it is less regarded and of smaller importance, either in the eye of the community or in the opinion of the officer or representative, than abroad, where national administration interfuses everything.

Mr. Bryce agrees that the effort of recent years to secure a more active interposition in politics by those who have held aloof from them, is a wise and timely thing; but he thinks that so long as politics have a subordinate interest and importance, and do not seriously interfere with men's business and the material interests of the country, so long will it be difficult to get into the service of the Government men of as much ability as those that are foremost in great educational and commercial enterprises. Civil Service Reform is, of course, in his eyes an absolute condition precedent to any real improvement in American politics, but, so long as party organization is so complicated and intricate a piece of machinery, it will be next to impossible to simplify the working sufficiently to enable it to be kept going without the trained hands that find their only compensation in public offices. Mr. Bryce thinks the management of the affairs of the ordinary towns and cities is not much, if at all, worse than that in England, while he looks upon the caucus, whether it be in Philadelphia or in Birmingham, as the source of unnumbered evils, taking from the individual, whether he be an elector or a legislator, all discretion, and relegating the choice of officers to that irresponsible body, the party majority. He analyzes and compares, with great accuracy, the various methods in use here and in England, and points out the fact that New York, with its vast population of poor and ignorant people, mostly recent emigrants from Europe, must not be taken as a type of American city politics, while Philadelphia has the honor of being largely controlled by the "bolters," moderate and patriotic men of both parties.

The striking difference between the English member of Parliament, with his freedom from local pressure, and the American Congressman who votes and speaks under the party lash, in the hands of professional politicians, is one of the features least to the credit and advantage of our politics. Then, too, in England the member of Parliament gets no salary, has no patronage, and knows little or nothing of rotation in office or of opposition, even on the average of five years, for which most Parliaments sit, while here the frequent elections, and constant changes in both elective and appointed offices, keep up a constant ferment and unwholesome excitement. Still, Mr. Bryce finds that public opinion, that irresistible factor in American politics, is slowly but steadily setting towards reform of the Civil Service, and the very effort to secure it has enlisted a large number of able and thoughtful men, who take no part in ordinary party elections and hold no office, in discussing matters of principle and in enlightening their fellow-citizens on the necessity of thorough reform. Under their influence, indifference to politics diminishes, and there is a steady increase in the number of able and earnest men who enter public life, especially as candidates for local offices. Every year more and better "Independents" are elected, both on the score of their own merit and as a protest against the control of rings and the power of professional politicians. Mr. Bryce finds many warnings for his own countrymen in the lesson of our politics, but still he decides that the shadows, regrettable as they are, are less conspicuous than the lights, of the American system, while the system itself is infinitely superior to that of Europe.

SOUTHERN EDUCATION.

THE NECESSITY FOR NATIONAL AID.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN:

I OBSERVE with pleasure your article in THE AMERICAN of the 9th instant, on "Illiteracy in the South." The Southern States have been and are making great efforts and great sacrifices for the education of all their people. My impression is that they pay more in proportion to property for this cause than do the Northern States. Might it not be well to look at statistics on this point? But the difference of pecuniary ability is so largely against our Southern people that our best efforts are, as you truly say, "so insufficient as to be grotesque." The progress made in providing the means of education has been astonishingly rapid during the last decade, and thus we have established two capital points: 1st. That we are too poor to educate properly; and, 2d. That we are nevertheless extremely anxious to educate. In these two facts the friends of education find all needed encouragement to render help.

No doubt, every fair man will admit that the enfranchisement of the freedmen by a governmental act of the nation imposed a tremendous obligation on the nation to provide means for the education of these people; but governments have always been hard to move by merely moral obligations. There must be evidence of public injury in order to bring them up to their duty. This evidence is abundant. There has been, and is now, and will continue to be, an infinite amount of mischief growing directly and palpably out of the ignorance of the Southern masses. This mischief is, of course, most disastrous to local interests, but it affects the whole country, upon which it brings disgrace, inability to buy, small production, blindness and instability of popular sentiment, a low tone of morality showing itself in many ways, and a precarious condition of all interests civil and industrial, as well as moral and social.

The relief for this is in education, and that only. Not in schools simply, but in true, vitalizing teaching, that can come only from teach-

ers who understand their business in the large sense, and from schools continued most of the year, comfortably accommodated in school houses, and well provided with the appliances for education. Could this sort of education take hold of our people,—I say nothing of yours, Mr. Editor,—we might soon realize something of the theory of our government, which to us now seems only a grim farce.

Every argument that can be used in favor of popular education by the State may be applied to this cause, which you and other enlightened directors of public sentiment are now so ably advocating. I need not say that you have our best wishes, and also our sincere thanks. We will not stickle as to whether the money shall come from the sale of public lands, from the treasury at large, or specially from the internal revenue. We will be grateful for it when it comes, let it come from whence it may. The internal revenue system, as you are aware, is unpopular, particularly in Virginia where our tobacco is made to pay so enormous a proportion of the tax. But, of course, if the money we pay thus, or even any considerable proportion of it, should come back for the education of our people, in connection with our own school systems, we would bear the burden much more cheerfully than we do now. In my efforts for national aid, I have urged the setting apart of the proceeds of the public lands, but I am ready to strike hands with any man, and every man, who is honestly working, to procure national help for us in our dire extremity.

Very truly yours,

Lexington, Va., December 13.

W. H. RUFFNER.

THE SOUTHERN STATES UNABLE TO EDUCATE ALL.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN:

I HAVE long been in active sympathy with those who wish to extend national aid to education. I have been on several committees to urge this matter on Congress; I have written and spoken frequently and earnestly about it; and I am ready to speak and write and act again, when other duties will permit. At present my home duties monopolize my time; . . . but I cannot deny myself the pleasure of thanking you for the interest you take in this great national necessity. For it is no less than a necessity. If this republic is to endure, "universal emancipation" must receive its necessary complement, "universal education." And, however willing they may be, the Southern States are not able to educate all.

Yours, truly,

M. A. NEWELL.

State of Maryland, Department of
Education, December 16.

ART.

THE EXHIBITION OF ETCHINGS.

THE exhibition of etchings at the Academy of Fine Arts is the largest which has ever been held in this country, and it would contrast favorably with those given abroad. That the Philadelphia Society of Etchers should have thought the public prepared for it speaks well for the increase of art culture in this city. Etching has never been popular. It is really, as has been said often enough, an art for artists only. The etcher interprets rather than imitates, and unfortunately the majority of men appreciate a looking-glass reflection of nature more than its practical interpretation. If anything could popularize this art it would be an exhibition like the present one, which contains specimens of the very best work of European and American artists.

Since it has opened with a reception to Mr. Francis Seymour Haden, his pictures are naturally the first to attract attention. An artist's principal aim in etching should be to record his impression rather than the actual details of a scene. He does not attempt to make a finished picture; he merely sketches on copper. In Haden's etchings there is never one line too many. His smallest touches are so full of meaning, that were any omitted or altered the character of the whole sketch would be changed. But from the strictest economy in workmanship he produces rich harmony. Lines which the uninitiated might think chance scratches of the needle, mark the sweep of clouds or the rippling of water. A great number of his etchings, including the "Agamemnon," the "Towing Path," "Whistler's House, Old Chelsea," the "Lancashire River," which he considers his best, and the others upon which his fame rests, are exhibited. Among them are two which are fine illustrations of the power and tenderness which an artist can express in etching landscapes. One is the "Shene Mill Pond," which Hamerton says is, with the exception of one plate by Claude, "the finest etching of a landscape subject that has ever been executed in the world." To the left are a few tall trees whose delicacy seems greater because of the intense strength in the group to the right which, with their dense dark mass of foliage, are brought close down to the water's edge. The water of the pond is wonderfully wet and transparent, Haden excelling in his drawing of calm or slightly rippling water. The picture is rich in a subtle softness, which evokes the same feeling for beauty the original scene would awaken in lovers of nature. The second of these etchings is the "Sunset in Tipperary" (in dry point) which it is said was at one time so little prized by Haden that he left it for years thrown to one side. It represents a lovely spot with

trees and water, "where the quiet-calmed end of evening smiles," and its deep shadows and pale lights are soft beyond anything else of the kind. The two Turners, the "Interior of a Church" and "Morning" are fair samples of this artist's style, though in them he only etched the lines, the mezzotint being the work of the engraver. Whistler has his Venetian series, in which he gives a new charm to a city which has been the theme of innumerable poets and etchers, thus showing that the real merit of an etching, as of a poem, rests not so much in the subject as in the impression which this has made upon the poet or etcher. In his "Thames Warehouses," his "Old Westminster Bridge," his "Black Lion Wharf" and the other London pieces he has revealed to Londoners a quaint picturesqueness in their city of which they had never dreamed. James Tissot's etchings are usually reproductions of the most ordinary scenes in English life. Those exhibited are drawn with a degree of sentiment that gives them a pleasing prettiness. The face of the girl in his "On the Steps of the National Gallery, London," is strikingly sweet. Four little pieces by W. S. Colman are drawn with freedom in a decorative style, and the positions of his figures, especially that of the girl in "The Swing," are charmingly graceful.

The French etchers are well represented. The most striking among them is Fortuny, who would always make use of any means to produce strong effects. His "Arab Seated Against a Wall," and his "Dead Arab" call for long and close examination. He is a master in delineating all expressions of the human countenance. His "Portrait Sketch" of Zamacois, which he etched one evening at Rajon's house, is wonderfully expressive and lifelike. There are a number of Jacque's rural scenes, "The Sheep in a Stable" being decidedly the masterpiece. It is a fine study of light and shade. A strong stream of light comes pouring into the dark stable through two windows to the right, bringing out in bright relief against the shadowy background the heads of the sheep huddled together in the farthest corner, falling on the shepherd who leans over the crib of hay, and lighting up the hay-covered ground in the centre. Rousseau's "Forest Interior" is full of simplicity and strength. In it great depth of feeling is expressed by the fewest possible lines. There is only space here to mention Lalanne's etchings, which are the sketchiest of the French school; Meissonier's strongly marked figure pieces; Jules Lefebvre's fine modelling of flesh in "Le Rêve"; Appian's exquisite landscape; Paul Rajon's remarkably strong and characteristic heads of Cardinal Newman and Charles Darwin; and the fine pictures of Daubigny, Millet and Méryon, all of which would require columns to do them justice. All of these artists have first places in the history of their art.

It is only within the last five or six years that we have had any etchers in this country, but they have already produced such good work that interest in their exhibited etchings is not diminished by the presence of so many etchings of the most celebrated foreign artists. Pennell, Platt and Parrish, who have hung their pictures together in gallery G, are essentially lovers of the picturesque and hold the foremost rank among American etchers. The last named of the three has the largest plate in the exhibition. In it are the old houses, boats, fishing gear and water he loves to treat, and the lights and shades are wonderfully well managed. The only fault to be found with his etchings is that, though their effects are splendid, they are overworked. Compared to those of Haden they seem like engravings. Platt's largest and most important picture is his "Provincial Fishing Village." Unfortunately for his reputation, he closely follows the subjects and methods of Parrish, by whom he is in danger of being eclipsed. Pennell has accomplished for Philadelphia what Whistler has done for London. He is peculiarly happy in discovering a picturesque element in old houses and river banks, and records it with great spirit and vigor. In one frame he gives two copies of his "Pilot Town" to show the difference between clean and artistic printing. The impression from the plate in which there has been slight retouchage has much more softness and brilliancy than that printed from the clean plate. The dark in the quaint sloping roofs of the houses to the left gains in much beauty, while the water of the little inlet is fairly flooded with light. The frame also contains a wood engraving and a process print of this picture between which a similar contrast is seen, the former being soft like the print with retouchage, and the latter cold in general tone.

The effects to be had by printing are also shown in Lepic's etchings, he giving several different impressions of the same plate. That printing in itself is not all-sufficient is seen in the case of Peter Moran's "Low Tide on the Schuylkill," in which the attempt is made to cover up some rather bad etching with artificial printing. This artist, as well as Thomas Moran, has contributed some excellent work. The latter's "Montauk Point" is particularly noteworthy; the rocks in it are very natural. Church's "A Witch's Daughter" and "A Chilly Day" are among the very prettiest of his quaint conceits. Lefebvre shows much feeling for the picturesque. Farrer produces lovely twilight effects in spite of bad work. Gerome and Stephen Ferris have a large number of etchings, most of which are copies of paintings, and which, from overwork, give the effect of engravings rather than of etchings. M. Nimmo Moran, who draws with great vigor and masculine strength. Bellows, Simpson and Uhle also exhibit admirable work. There are a few monotypes, the best of which are James Lember's "Head of an Old Woman"

and Peter Moran's "Sunset," which is quite Turneresque. Mr. Walker goes to excess in his monotypes, which consequently look like lithographs. The excellent mezzotints by Thomas Hewson, an English artist, make us regret their limited number.

Visitors to the exhibition who are ignorant of the technical part of etching will be able to learn much from the exhibits of tools, varnish, etc., the printing press and the series of four plates prepared by Peter Moran. The first of these is plain, the second varnished for work, the third drawn upon, and the fourth bitten in and printed from. He has also sent an impression from this plate, which is called "Pueblo, Shemopade, Arizona."

LITERATURE.

"THE SUBJECTION OF HAMLET."

THE character of *Hamlet* has a bibliography of its own. For more than two centuries, the great critics of England and Germany have, with keen and minute analysis, endeavored to discover the motives and to demonstrate, with logical conclusiveness, the principles of action, which must be supposed to have animated the greatest of the children of Shakespeare's genius. As the result of their labors, they have created a literature, which Mr. Horace Howard Furness, alone of living men, has with conscientious study thoroughly mastered, and as the highest expression of that mastery, he has characterized as "insoluble" the "mystery of *Hamlet's* sanity." Yet Mr. Leighton now comes forward with a confident attempt to solve the problem, and Mr. Crosby has introduced the essay with words of high commendation.

We regret that we cannot concur in Mr. Crosby's eulogium. We fail to see either the originality, the novelty, or the great value of Mr. Leighton's hypothesis. His theory is that *Hamlet*, while really and unfeignedly insane, is not a melancholiac, who, impotent for action, broods over past sorrow or fancied wrong; nor a maniac, incapable of rational discourse, who rages in unintermitting frenzy; nor a monomaniac, sane on all subjects save one, who resolutely marches to the accomplishment of the purpose to which his perverted will compels him; but a lunatic, with mind so disordered and faculties so unbalanced, that, in Mr. Leighton's own words, which he prints with all the emphasis of capital letters, *Hamlet's* thoughts are "captured by whoever speaks to him, or by the last exciting circumstance, to the exclusion or confusion of all the previous determinations of his will." By the "subjection of *Hamlet*," we, therefore, take Mr. Leighton to mean, the subordination of *Hamlet's* faculties to the perturbing influence of whatever person he chances to encounter, or whatever circumstances happen at the moment to surround him. Mr. Crosby, indeed, seems to entertain a somewhat vague and shadowy idea that by "the subjection of *Hamlet*" is meant the subjective, in contradistinction to the objective, development of the character, that is, that Shakespeare, not telling us in narrative form what *Hamlet* was, nor permitting us to deduce his character from the influences which we may consider the events of his life to have had upon him, has compelled *Hamlet* to discover his real nature and character to us by his exhibition in his words and acts of his own apprehension of the conditions which controlled him. Yet if these too finely drawn distinctions have any meaning, they amount only to this, that Shakespeare is a true dramatic poet, in that he gives us not painted pictures of men, nor waxen images in the similitude of flesh and blood, but creatures of genius that have a real existence to all who comprehend those creations in their own manifestations as well as in their attendant circumstances.

We have said that we do not estimate highly the value of Mr. Leighton's hypothesis, even if its novelty be conceded. If *Hamlet* were mad, what matters it what 'his peculiar variety of his insanity may have been? As *Polonius* said of him,

To define true madness,
What is't, but to be nothing else but mad?

In the case of an insane patient, it is essential for purposes of treatment, and in the interest of an eventual cure, that the pathological diagnosis should be thorough and accurate; but for the comprehension of a dramatic character, if it be proven to be that of an insane person, what matters it whether the particular form of insanity be *monomania* or *dementia*? Mr. Leighton's *Hamlet* is a character devoid of interest, an aimless lunatic without moral or mental nerves or vertebrae. We may pity him, but we cannot have any intellectual sympathy with him. Critics may well differ as to whether *Hamlet* was sane or insane, or whether, if sane, he feigned insanity; but it is impossible to study the play carefully without coming to the conclusion that "though this be madness, yet there is method in it," and that, however temporarily diverted by circumstances, *Hamlet's* controlling purpose was his determination to avenge his father's murder. In fact almost the only thing which can, with certainty, be predicated of *Hamlet*, is that he was not that which Mr. Leighton would have us believe him to have been.

Nor is Mr. Leighton's theory novel. Mr. Crosby quotes from an

* "The Subjection of *Hamlet*: an Essay toward an explanation of the motives of thought and action of Shakespeare's Prince of Denmark." By William Leighton, author of "Shakespeare's Dream," "The Sons of Godwin," "Change," etc., with an Introduction by Joseph Crosby, Hon. M. R. S. L. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1882.

article published in *Harper's Monthly* for August last, a reference to *Hamlet's* "utter incapacity . . . to keep an idea sufficiently long in contact with reason and judgment to actualize it by the firm decision of his will." What is that but "subjection," the subordination of will to the control of whatever idea may present itself. Long ago Coleridge said *Hamlet's* "mind is lord over itself, but it is not master of his will." Dr. Conolly, also, has said, that *Hamlet* "shows the unfitness of an infirm mind for consecutive conversation or continued exertion. Every incidental trifle produces interruption, and drives thought from its proposed course." What are these views but anticipations of the essential point of Mr. Leighton's theory?

Nor has Mr. Leighton laid Shakespearean scholars under any obligation by the readings he adopts in the passages which, to support his theory, he quotes from the play. He follows Farmer and Hudson in attributing to *Hamlet* a pun upon the word "son," when, in reply to the king's question,

How is it that the clouds still hang on you?

he answers,

Not so, my lord: I am too much i' the sun.

The pun, poor at the best, is strained and unnecessary, and it detracts from, rather than adds to, the force and pertinency of the reply, for the antithesis is obvious between the clouds of sorrow and the sunny glare of the wedding festivities, too soon following the funeral.

Mr. Leighton, also, agrees with Coleridge in understanding *Hamlet's* epithet of "fishmonger," as applied to *Polonius*, to mean a fisher and seller, not of fishes, but of secrets; but most of the English, and all of the modern German, commentators agree in giving to the word a very different meaning, which much better satisfies the context.

But most marvellous of all is Mr. Leighton's flight of imagination with regard to the following passage:

Ham. O Jephthah, judge of Israel, what a treasure hadst thou!

Pol. What treasure had he, my lord?

Ham. Why,

One fair daughter, and no more,
The which he loved passing well.

Pol. (aside) Still on my daughter.

Ham. Am I not i' the right, old Jephthah?

Pol. If you call me Jephthah, my lord, I have a daughter that I love passing well.

Ham. Nay, that follows not.

Pol. What follows, then, my lord?

Ham. Why,

As by lot, God wot—

and then, you know,

It came to pass, as most like it was

the first row of the pious chanson will show you more.

To do Mr. Leighton full justice we quote his comments. He says:

At the entrance of *Polonius*, who comes to announce the actors, but whose mind is, doubtless, still connecting the Prince's lunacy with his daughter, *Hamlet's* thoughts, distracted for an instant from the actors, fly to *Ophelia*.—*Polonius'* white beard suggests the Jew, *Jephthah*, who sacrificed his daughter; *Ophelia* is *Jephthah's* daughter; this brings memories of scripture phraseology: 'It came to pass,' etc., and so he rambles on to 'the pious chanson.'

The simple fact is that *Hamlet* quotes from an old and well known ballad, one version of which, Mr. Furness tells us, is to be found in Percy's "Reliques," and another version of which is given by Mr. Halliwell, as follows:

I read that many years agoe,
When *Jepha*, Judge of Israel,
Had one fair daughter and no more,
Whom he loved so passing well,

And as by lot God wot,
It came to passe most like it was,
Great wars there should be,
And who should be the chiefe, but he, but he.

In face of the obvious quotation from this ballad, which Shakespeare puts in *Hamlet's* mouth, what becomes of Mr. Leighton's fine suggestion of the train of ideas which runs through *Hamlet's* crazed brain, the actor suggesting *Ophelia*, more *Hibernico*, we suppose, because such was her simplicity and sweetness that she acted as little as one of her sex could; next the daughter suggesting a father, and that father's white beard suggesting the Jew, *Jephthah* (how does Mr. Leighton know that *Jephthah* wore a beard, and if so, that it was white?), and lastly *Jephthah* bringing memories of scripture phraseology, "it came to pass," etc.? In comparison with this ingenious train of reasoning "the baseless fabric of this vision" were "stately and air-braving towers." And from this blunder the study of the text and notes of that edition by Mr. Furness which Mr. Leighton has praised as "admirable" would have saved him.

Mr. Leighton also criticises the "objective ghost" in the first act, and he goes so far as to regard as a conspicuous fault the use of such a ghost as a dramatic means. We must contrast that ghost, who appeared not to *Hamlet* only, but also to *Marcellus*, *Bernardo* and *Horatio*, with the "subjective ghost," who was visible to *Hamlet* alone, in his interview with the Queen, when *Hamlet's* address to him was not unnaturally accepted by his mother as proof of his preëxistent insanity. We must remember that it is dramatically necessary that the reader or spectator

of the play should be furnished with an adequate and obvious cause for *Hamlet's* actions after his father's spirit had told its tale of horror, and that that which gives that tale its overpowering influence upon *Hamlet*, is not so much its revelation of the murder, but the fact that the portals of the grave had opened, and that a spirit had returned from the other world to lay a charge upon him, and that that spirit was no mere fantasy of his disordered brain, for its ghostly character was attested by "the sensible and true avouch" of the eyes and ears of others. When we recall these circumstances, we cannot fail to conclude that, as to the fitness of dramatic means to the end to be attained, Shakespeare was more competent to decide correctly than even Mr. Leighton.

After a careful reading of Mr. Leighton's book, we turn from it with the conviction, that he has but added another to the long list of futile efforts to solve that great Shakespearean mystery, in comparison with which, the oracles of Apollo were precise and definite statements of fact, and the riddle of the Sphinx was so clear and plain that he who runs may read.

THE SCHAFF-HERZOG ENCYCLOPEDIA.—Dr. J. J. Herzog's "Real-Encyclopädie für protestantische Theologie und Kirche," is recognized as one of the most useful and complete dictionaries of theology and church history in existence. The first edition is out of print, and in 1876 a second began to appear, Dr. G. L. Plitt, of Erlangen, being associated with Dr. Herzog—Lutheran with Reformed—in the editorship. But both Dr. Plitt and Dr. Herzog have died without seeing its completion, and the editor now in charge is Professor Hauck, of Erlangen. Of the 150 parts, the 104th has appeared, bringing the alphabet down to *Patristik*. Among recent works, only the "Kirchen-Lexicon" of Drs. Wetzer and Welte, two Catholic scholars, which also is coming out in a second edition, can be put into comparison. Each of these has its own merits, the Catholic work paying greater attention to lesser topics. But, altogether, Herzog bears the palm.

During the appearance of the first edition, an attempt was made by Dr. J. H. Bomberger, of this city, to reproduce it in English dress, and in a somewhat abridged form. It failed, because the abridgment was insufficient and no attempt was made to supply what to the American reader must be intolerable omissions. Two volumes appeared. In the "Cyclopedia of Theological Literature," begun in 1867, by Drs. McClintock and Strong, free use has been made of Herzog, as of similar works generally. Dr. Philip Schaff, who has been, on so many occasions, an interpreter between the German and the American public in this department of thought, has undertaken an abridgment of Herzog, with additions original and from other sources, designed to meet the wants of American readers generally ("A Religious Encyclopedia: or Dictionary of Biblical, Historical, Doctrinal and Practical Theology, Based on the 'Real-Encyclopädie' of Herzog, Plitt and Hauck." Edited by Philip Schaff, D.D., L.L.D., Professor in the Union Theological Seminary, New York. Associate Editors: Rev. Samuel M. Jackson, M. A., and Rev. D. S. Schaff. Vol. I., pp. 847, large lexicon octavo. New York, Funk & Wagnalls). The work appears, to our inspection and perusal of more than a third of the articles, exceedingly well done. In some places, the work of abridgment has been done rather too heroically. For instance, most readers who look up Jakob Böhme would care to learn a little about his distinctive opinions which have influenced so many persons on both sides of the Atlantic. But Dr. Hamberger's article has been pruned of everything but the historical elements. But in the main, this work has been well managed, leaving the results of the German writers without their processes.

One class of articles we think a mistake. We mean those on Biblical subjects. Both Herzog and Wetzer and Welte have them, although Germany has three good Biblical Dictionaries (Winer, Schenkel and Riehm). McClintock and Strong and Schaff-Herzog have them, although we have Kitto and Smith covering this field. By leaving this field to other writers, and keeping to church history and the developed theologies, space would be saved for other articles, and the bulk of the whole work might have been reduced.

The original contributions to the work are fully as valuable as anything in the original. We would notice especially the articles by Professor Park on New England theologians, such as the elder and the younger Edwards, Joseph Bellamy, Dr. Emmons, and, we presume, on many others yet to come; the accounts of American denominations, by representative men; and much else that Americans cannot dispense with. The whole work is to fill three substantial volumes, the first volume covering the letters A to F.

But every such work has its defects. We make note of those we have observed: In the notice of *Dr. Rufus Anderson* (p. 81), there is no notice of the change he effected in the missionary policy of the American Board. The article on *Annihilationism* (p. 89), is very scanty and insufficient, no reference being made to the sects which hold this view. On *Antinomians* (p. 93), the German article by Plitt is followed, hardly any notice being taken of Crisp, Saltmarsh, Huntingdon, William Blake and other Anglo-Saxon specimens. More than part first of Gangauf's work on the "Psychology of St. Augustine" appeared.

T. S. Van Braght's Dutch work on the *Baptists* (p. 212) should

have been mentioned with some reference to the American editions. *Conrad Beissel* is omitted, as is his *Ephrata* monastery. No notice is taken of the recent life of *Richard Bentley* (p. 245), perhaps because the article was printed before that appeared. It is hardly true to say that the *Berleburg Bible* (p. 248), did not reach a second edition, as the Pentateuch and the New Testament have been reprinted in our century. The Norwegian *Bible Revision* (p. 290), has got farther than the appointment of a commission. The Swedish original of *St. Birgitta's "Revelations"* (p. 297) has been published by Klemming (Stockholm 1857-61). *Nathan Bishop* (pp. 300-301), hardly deserves a notice longer than St. Anselm gets; five lines would have been enough. It is excusable in Dr. Hamberger to say (p. 305), that of *Böhme's* writings "three English translations have appeared by I. Sparrow, Edward Taylor and William Law, of which the last is the best." But it is not excusable for an American scholar to repeat the blunder. There is but one English version of *Böhme's* works, that begun by Elliston, John Sparrow, Humphrey Blundel and the two Hothams, in Commonwealth times, and completed by Taylor after the Restoration. The edition published after Law's death by his disciples was an imperfect reprint of that, with arbitrary changes made by people who read no German. Law had no hand in it. No good scholar would say (p. 305), that "it is certain that *Boethius* was a Christian, at least nominally." He was simply a Pagan. The account of *Bonald's* views (p. 310), is an epigrammatic libel. In the notice of *Borrow* (p. 314), "*Zancali*" should be "*Zincali*." The first edition of Delprat's book on the *Brethren of the Common Life* (p. 324), has been superseded by the enlarged edition of 1856. There is no notice of the new investigations into *Giordano Bruno's* history (p. 331). *Guillaume Bude's* most important book is not named (p. 335). *Bunsen's* services in the hymnological field are ignored (pp. 337-338).

From the article on *Cameronians* (p. 375), one might suppose that their history in America ended about 1774. The father of *Alexander Campbell* was a Seceder minister in Ireland,—not Scotland, as would be inferred from the statement on page 377. *Campanas* on the same page should be *Campanus*. Under *Class Meetings* (p. 490), it should have been said that attendance on them is not now, as it formerly was, indispensable to membership in the Methodist Churches generally. The discussion of *Communism* (p. 519) is very scanty. In the note of *Dr. Henry Cook* (p. 552), "*Surgau*" should be *Lurgan*. *J. A. Cramer* (p. 567) did more than *translate* Bossuet. *Cudworth* (p. 579) emphatically was not "the leader of the Cambridge Platonists;" in one sense *Sterry* was so, in another *Whitchcote*. The account of the speculative views of *Nicolaus Cusanus* (p. 589), is hardly fair to that great thinker, who was no Pantheist, and who was far in advance of his age on many points. The *Cutty-Stool* (p. 591), though commonly the resort of the unchaste, was meant for all notorious sinners.

Bishop Reinkens has written a life of *Diepenbrock* (p. 638), whose relations with the Protestant Passavant should have been noticed. It hardly is true that the younger *Henry Dodwell* (p. 652), "became noted for scepticism," as his "*Christianity not Founded on Argument*" admits of a very different interpretation. Moody Stuart's "*Recollections*" of *John Duncan* is not named under Duncan. *Dr. Timothy Dwight's* reply to Ethan Allen is omitted in the enumeration of his works (p. 679).

The most important works on *Master Eckart* are *Lasson* (1868) and the first volume of *Preger's* "*Geschichte der Deutschen Mystik*," and both are omitted (pp. 688-689). *Hans Engelbrecht's* "*Divine Visions*" (p. 725), have been translated into English by Francis Okeley (London, 1780). The *Epistola Obscurorum Virorum* professed to be written to *Ortuinus Gratianus*, not "*Ortwin Gratius*" (p. 752); and it is fair to say that Luther disapproved of the book utterly.

The article *Familists* (pp. 797-798,) is very scanty, and makes no use of *Nippold's* investigations. The reader actually would suppose that their founder lived mostly in England, and that the sect was distinctly if not exclusively English. The use made of the name in America in persecuting Mrs. Hutchinson deserves notice. *I. H. Fichte's* relation to spiritualism deserves notice (pp. 809-810.) *Foot-washing* (p. 823), is practised by the Winnebrennarians as well as by the Tunkers. *Sebastian Franck* (p. 832) never was an Anabaptist. *Johann Funck's* father-in-law was *Andreas Osiander*, not "*Ossiander*" (p. 842).

R. E. T.

THE "CONVERSATIONS-LEXIKON."—Of Brockhaus's "*Conversations-Lexikon*" (thirteenth revised edition, Leipzig) we have received the third volume embracing the subjects from "*Bibelgesellschaften*" to "*Carlow*." In addition to numerous wood-cuts incorporated with the text, it contains twenty-seven partly colored plates and five copper-plate maps in colors. Among the plates, a phototype fac-simile of the original of the beginning of the forty-two line Bible illustrating the article "*Buchdruckerkunst*" is remarkably fine. We mention the following important articles in this volume: *Bibelgesellschaften*, *Bibelübersetzungen*, *Bibliographie*, *Bibliotheken*, *Bienen*, *Bildneri*, *Bimetallismus*, *Biographie*, *Bismarck*, *Böhmen*, *Bolivia*, *Bonaparte*, *Bosnien*, *Boston*, *Botanik*, *Brandenburg*, *Brasilien*, *Braunschweig*, *British Museum*, *British Columbia*, *Brockhaus*, *Brüske*, *Buchdruckerkunst*, *Buchhandel*,

Bulgarien, *Byzantinisches Reich*, *Californien*, *Canada*. Among the many new words we find "*Boycottieren*" (to boycott) but miss "*Bulldosieren*" (to bulldoze). The Americans found worthy of mention in this volume are *Blaine*, *Booth*, *Boutwell*, *Bowditch*, *Brace*, *C. B. Brown*, *G. L. Brown*, *John Brown*, *C. F. Browne* (*Artemus Ward*) *John Ross Browne*, *Buchanan*, *Burnside*, *Elihu Burritt*, *B. F. Butler*, *G. H. Calvert* and *H. C. Carey*. The biographies are brought down to the date of publication. Of course we have not found time to read the 1,000 pages of this volume, but so far as we have been able to examine it, we find the information given very accurate. We detected a strange error on page 950 where the "*Farm Ballads*" of our American poet, *Will Carleton*, are ascribed to the Irish novelist, *William Carleton*, who died in 1869. "*Farm Ballads*" were not published until some years later.

MINOR NOTICES.

A BIRTHDAY-BOOK, a very pretty volume, has been made by Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co., with selections from the works of Rev. E. P. Roe, the picking and choosing being the work of Rev. Lyman Abbott. We are not prepared to say that the scraps of wit and wisdom presented are entitled to so much distinction, but Mr. Roe's books have had a great sale, it is said, and those who enjoy them will doubtless be buyers of this volume of selections.

Another very charming holiday volume, published ostensibly for children, but which can be enjoyed equally by the children of a larger growth, is the "*Cradle Songs of Many Nations*," published by Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. The music is by Reinhold L. Herman and the numerous and fine illustrations are by Walter Satterlee. The book does not claim to be an exhaustive summary of cradle songs but to give only a number of such as best adapt themselves to artistic treatment. We have here not only songs embalmed in the folk-lore of all the countries of Europe, but Chinese, Japanese, Hindu, Zulu, American Indian and many other curious and interesting varieties. In many cases the original words of each country are added.

M. Zola's "*In the Whirlpool*," a translation of "*La Curée*" by John Sterling (T. B. Peterson & Co., Philadelphia), is one of the best, while one of the most "unobjectionable" of the French realist's works. It could hardly be Zola, of course, without being to an extent offensive to Anglo-Saxon ideas, but there is little here of the horrible brutality of "*Nana*" and "*Pot-Bouille*." The book is noticeable as being a close transcript of life in Paris under the reign of Louis Napoleon, and for its exposures of the corrupt speculations of that period in which a little ring of "contractors" managed to secure, under the pretence of beautifying and "improving" the capitol, fortunes of colossal magnitude. One of the inimitable "*Rougon*" family, various other members of which Zola has drawn with much power, comes from *Plassans*, "*Walking on his Upstairs*," as the American phrase has it, and in a year or two is worth millions. It is a story with a moral. More than one American city has been victimized by methods similar to those which *Rougon-Saccard* and his associates employed in Paris under the "Second Empire."

"Mr. Isaacs" is not, as the hurried writer of book titles might be rash to suppose, another version of the well-worn modern Hebrew themes, too well advertised just now in dramatic ventures and other speculations. Isaacs is a Mohammedan and the book is a tale of India. Miss F. Marion Crawford has done herein some very noticeable work. Her book has the tone of pure romance, and it manages withal to give a vivid idea of life in that strange land. "Mr. Isaacs" is a story of noble sacrifice and of the power of love over circumstances, over life itself. In an era of trashy novels, so earnest and eloquent a book as this deserves recognition. Macmillan & Co. are the publishers.

"Page, Squire and Knight" gives its scope sufficiently in its title. It is a tale of the "Days of Chivalry," founded on the old chronicles, but made to adapt itself to the fortunes of a set of characters who are influenced by the usual motives of men and women in fiction. We cannot say much for the literary construction of the book, but as a mere vehicle for giving the reader an idea of "the humanities of chivalry and the institutions of Feudalism," as the editor puts it, it serves its purpose fairly. We use the term editor advisedly, since authorship is not claimed by W. H. Davenport Adams, whose name is on the title page. There are over 100 illustrations, but they have no great merit. (Estes & Lauriat, Boston.)

An agreeable addition to the "American Men of Letters" series (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston) has been made in the issue of a volume by Thomas R. Lounsbury upon James Fenimore Cooper. It is known that it was a last injunction of Cooper's that no authorized account of his life should be prepared by his family. This wish has seemed for years to have had the weight of a command, not only as originally urged, as an injunction on his family, but in a general way. There is no reason, however, why such parts of his life as were open to the public and had been for years during his life matter of free and open knowledge, should not be worked into a corrected and standard biography. Cooper had reference, in his dying request, solely to private family history and papers, and no attempt is made by Mr. Lounsbury to infringe that wish. It is not possible to do it in fact, since it is believed that the family, in order the more sacredly to keep the promise made their distinguished relative, destroyed all letters and papers of a private kind. But much remained on the record notwithstanding; Mr. Lounsbury had no lack of material, and he has produced a well-rounded piece of biography. Cooper was a great writer and a very strong and peculiar character. His name is indissolubly and most honorably connected with American literature, and it is altogether fitting that we should have this record of his life and labors.

Readers of the *Atlantic Monthly* will have already formed their opinion as to the merits of Mr. Bishop's last novel ("The House of a Merchant Prince. A Novel of New York." By William Henry Bishop. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.), and that opinion will, we fancy, be generally favorable. Without exhibiting any especial originality in the matter of plot, the story is a bright one, and, as a reflex of certain phases of American life, possesses a definite value, and deserves a reading less cursory than that usually bestowed upon the novel of the day. *Rodman Harvey* is a type of that considerable class of self-made men which finds its completest development in America. The character, not inherently strong, nor lending itself readily to a dramatic treatment, is yet wonderfully well individualized, and—from the sociologist's point of view, at least—will stand out as the central figure in a narrative which, though something less than tragedy, and something other than romance, is still charged with the essence of both. *Bainbridge*, nominally the hero, possesses less of human interest; and *Angelica*, around whose personality the action revolves, is interesting rather as a study in moods than as a living, breathing creation. It is in *Ottile*—cultured but never pedantic, womanly but never weak, serious but never dull—that the reader is sure to find his deepest interest centring; and the interaction of her nature with others entirely diverse furnishes Mr. Bishop with much excellent material.

which he has used successfully. A comparison of the text of the book with that of the story as originally published in the *Atlantic*, discloses the fact of a thorough revision. The phraseology has been extensively altered, in some instances entire paragraphs being changed. Mr. Bishop has seemingly been fearful of falling into those errors in the use of tenses which so greatly disfigure the writings of Mr. Mallock. But the queer part of it all is that the alterations are generally *not* improvements, and on the whole the magazine text may be regarded as the better of the two.

Mr. Minot J. Savage ("Poems." Boston: Geo. H. Ellis) writes very unevenly, but as he distinctly disclaims any ambition to be judged by a lofty standard, it is only fair to cull such flowers as we may from his modest and oftentimes sweet, verse, reserving whatever strictures a close criticism might demand. There are two or three sonnets here which would pass muster in a much more pretentious volume, and the story of *Saint Christopher* is as prettily told as we remember to have seen it anywhere. Some of the other pieces are promising.

"Talks and Stories about Heroes and Holidays" is a pleasant book for young people, put forth by Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls, of New York. It is edited by Rev. W. F. Crafts and illustrated by Miss Lillian I. Brigham. It is designed especially as a help in the "International Sunday School Lessons" for the coming year. It includes what are called "Holiday Sermons" to children, for New Years, All Fools' Day, Palm Sunday, Easter, Christmas, etc., besides like sermons on the Bible Heroes. It will be useful also as a homiletical study for preachers, in the ways of communicating religious instruction to children. It is not a heavy book despite all this "purpose," but cheery and helpful. Miss Brigham's pictures have not much artistic merit, but they are animated and bright and do their full share towards making the book attractive.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON. By John Veitch, LL.D. ("Philosophical Classics" Series.) Pp. 268. \$1.25. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

IN THE WHIRLPOOL ("La Curée"). A Novel. By Emile Zola. Translated by John Sterling. Pp. 298. 75 cents. T. B. Peterson & Bros., Philadelphia.

LIFE OF WASHINGTON. By Leonard Henley. Pp. 207. 50 cents. John W. Lovell Co., New York. (J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.)

VERSES. By Kate Vannah. Pp. 117. \$1. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

DR. GRIMSHAW'S SECRET. A Romance. By Nathaniel Hawthorne. Edited with Preface and Notes by Julian Hawthorne. Pp. 368. \$1.50. James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. (Porter & Coates, Philadelphia.)

SIR ROGER DE COVERLEV. "Reprinted from the Spectator." Pp. 194. Sampson, Low & Co., London. (D. Appleton & Co., New York; Porter & Coates, Philadelphia.)

SCIENCE.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.—PROCEEDINGS.

Meeting of December 19.—Professor Joseph Leidy, President, in the chair.

Professor Harrison Allen, referring to certain points in connection with the structure of the dentary apparatus of the human subject, called attention to the asymmetry or irregularity that appeared to be *invariably* presented by the curves of the so-called "dental arch." Strictly considered, there could not be said to be a true arch at all, since the lateral curves exhibited no parallelism of outline, and could readily be shown to belong to arcs of different degrees of curvature. This condition manifests itself even in the best-formed mouths.

Professor Allen, referring to the folds of the hard palate, stated that these were subject to very considerable variations. In the human fetus of five centimetres length, they are regular, six in number, and arranged across the palate as in some of the lower animals. The irregularity in the disposition of these folds, or *rugæ*, which already manifests itself to a certain degree at birth, proceeds with further development, but to what extent such irregularity might attain without indicating deformity, the speaker believed no data had been collected. For the purposes of accurate description, it was proposed to designate these *rugæ* respectively as the canine, the first intermediate, the first bicuspid, the second intermediate, and so on in accordance with their relation to the teeth.

Professor E. D. Cope described at length the characters of the Eocene mammalian genus *Meniscotherium*, whose remains were first discovered in 1874 in the "Wasatch" beds of New Mexico. From portions of various individuals, forming an almost perfect skeleton of *M. terrarubra*, it could readily be determined that this genus of animals, whose exact zoological relationship had thus far been considered uncertain, was most nearly allied to the eastern *Hyrax*. The affinities of *Toxodon* and *Cadurcotherium* to *Hyrax* were pointed out.

Professor Leidy described a new species of fossil peccary of the genus *Platygonus*, from remains found in a limestone quarry in Mifflin Co., Pennsylvania. The animal, for which the specific designation of *P. vetus* was proposed, closely resembled the *P. compressus*.

Miss Graceanna Lewis made a communication on the plumage of birds and the structure of feathers, expressing the belief that the microscopic characters of feathers might afford certain points of importance in ornithological classification.

Professor Angelo Heilprin, referring to his former communication on zoogeographical classification, stated that a critical examination of the North American batrachian and reptilian faunas confirmed the opinion already expressed, that the "Nearctic" fauna, so-called, of naturalists, could not be considered as a fauna distinct by itself, but must be relegated to the "Palearctic" or Eur-Asiatic division, of which it formed only a lateral extension. Reasons were given for uniting the Sonoran sub-region of Professor Cope, or the region of the southwestern United States, with the South American (Neotropical).

Professor Cope, from considerations connected with the distribution of birds, reptiles and fishes, insisted that the regions, as they had thus far been recognized by most naturalists, were the correct ones, and that the "Nearctic" (North American) region was entitled to an independent position. Nor could any satisfactory grounds be assigned for separating the Sonoran sub-regions from the rest of the United States.

NOTES.

FORESTS AND HAILSTORMS.—Herr Riniker, the chief forester of the Canton of Aargau, Switzerland, brings forward some interesting facts tending to prove that a direct connection exists between forests and hailstorms. In support of the theory that where there are forests there are, as a rule, no hailstorms, it is asserted that in the region of the Lindenberg, a low chain of mountains stretching for a distance of about 20 miles in the southern portion of the canton, and with an average height of about 800 feet, hailstorms were very frequent at a time (some twenty years back) when the mountain slopes were in considerable part denuded of their forest growth, but that since the period of partial replantation (in 1868, with a growth of fir) such phenomena gradually decreased in frequency, and altogether ceased with the year 1871. The explanation offered by Herr Riniker for the facts as observed is: that the meeting of the negative electric current drawn from the earth by the trees with the positive electric current saturating the hail-clouds, produces a quantity of heat sufficient to prevent the complete congelation of the clouds, or even to melt the hailstones that may have already been formed from them, and thereby converts the frozen particles into rain.

THE MEASURE OF THE MUSCULAR SENSE.—At a meeting of the British Anthropological Institute held on the 14th of last month, Mr. Francis Galton, F.R.S., the distinguished author of "Hereditary Genius," exhibited and explained an apparatus devised by him for measuring the relative delicacy of the muscular sense. The determination in question was effected by means of a "graded scale of sensitivity," consisting of a series of small weights arranged in sequence, numbered 1, 2, 3, etc., and differing from one another by equally perceptible variations. If a person, A., could just distinguish, say 1 and 3, he could also distinguish between any two weights two grades apart, as 2 and 4, 3 and 5, etc. On the other hand, if another person, B., were twice as obtuse as A., he would be able to distinguish one grade only where A. would distinguish two; in other words, he would be just able to distinguish between weights 1 and 5, 2 and 6, and so on. The same, or a similar method could likewise be applied in testing the delicacy of the other senses, such as taste and smell. As a preliminary result of experiments, it would appear that men had on the whole more delicacy of discrimination than women; and further, that intellectually able men had more than other men. Women sensitive to a morbid degree were not remarkable for their powers of discrimination.

SEASONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FLOWERS.—In a recent issue of THE AMERICAN, we had occasion to call attention to a very suggestive paper, by the English scientist, J. E. Taylor, on the origin of the British vernal flora, in which that author attempted to show that the existence of this flora was dependent upon circumstances similar or identical to those which at some period determined the existence of an Alpine flora; in other words, that "seasonal development" in the case of the lowland British plants was "climatically equivalent" to development on elevated mountain summits. Proof of this was considered to be afforded by the fact that nearly all or all of the earliest flowering plants of Britain were plants belonging to the northern or sub-Arctic (and consequently Alpine) flora, and the circumstance, that the flowering of these plants in the British Isles took place earlier in the year than in the more northern and colder regions. Singularly confirmative of this view of seasonal development are the facts mentioned by Dr. Brandis (*Indian Forester*, July), Director of the India Forest Department, in connection with the flowering of certain species of Australian acacias acclimated in the Nilgherry Hills. Thus the *Acacia dealbata*, which was introduced into India probably several years before 1845, flowered in that year, and up to about 1850, in the month of October, a period of the year corresponding with the Australian flowering time. But in about 1860, the trees were observed to flower in September; in 1870, they flowered in August; in 1878, in July; and finally, in the present year, 1882, they began to flower in June, which is the spring month corresponding to October in Australia. "Having watched the flowering of these trees for nearly forty years, there cannot be any doubt in the matter; and it is a curious fact that it should have taken the trees nearly forty years to regain their habit of flowering in the spring. Commencing in October, our autumn, it has gradually worked its way back to summer, and finally to spring; probably it will remain at this point." A similar instance of progressive retrogression in flowering has just been noted by Prof. Thibetson Dyer, Assistant-Director of Kew Gardens, in the case of *Acacia decurrens*, a Tasmanian species.

NEW ZEALAND EARTH-WORMS.—According to Mr. A. T. Urquhart (*New Zealand Journal of Science*), it would appear that in certain parts of that island the soil is tenanted by an incredibly large number of earth-worms. From estimates founded on observations made in different fields the author assumes that on alluvial flats, slopes, and richer portions of the upper lands, these animals would average about 8 to the square foot, or nearly 350,000 to the acre, which is nearly seven times the quantity estimated by Henson for the most favored localities of Germany, and fourteen times that credited by Darwin for the British Isles. In some localities, moreover, there were found to be as many as 26 worms to the square foot. It is stated, as an interesting fact connected with the habits of these animals, that in New Zealand, earth-worms not only leave their burrows, but climb up trees, chiefly in the night time, in search of their food.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by Charles Scribner's Sons stating that, having sold already nearly 175,000 volumes of Lange's "Commentary," they feel disposed to make a special offer of the work to clergymen for the next sixty days at \$3.00 a volume, the regular price being \$5.00. There are twenty-five volumes.

A "Pusey Library" is proposed at Oxford, with which is to be connected an "endowment for research" in the field of theology.

Mr. Tennyson is said to have received £1,000 for "The Promise of May."

Mr. H. Van Laun is engaged on a history of the literary exiles in England.

Mr. Froude has in press a new volume of "Short Studies on Great Subjects."

Professor Seelye is lecturing at Cambridge, this term, on Napoleon Bonaparte.

"A Key to all the Waverley Novels" has recently been issued in London by Griffith & Farran. The author or compiler is Henry Grey, author of "The Classics for the Million." A table is given of the leading characters in each story, and the plot is set forth as briefly and as clearly as possible.

An interesting "Histoire de Madame Du Barry," by M. Charles Vatel, has been published at Versailles. The mistress of Louis XV. left all she had to a Mlle. de la Neuville, from whose unpublished papers M. Vatel takes his material. He proves that there is no foundation for the story that she was of evil reputation before she ensnared the king. He precedes his work with a study of Mme. de Pompadour, the Parc aux Cerfs, and Mlle. de Romans.

Six different translations of Mr. Edward Jenkins's "Paladin of Finance" have appeared in Russia. That country seems to be the only one where the book is widely appreciated. It deserved a better welcome in England and the United States than it has received.

"The Life and Works of Thomas Bewick" is declared to be the most elegant *édition de luxe* that has been published in London this season. Mr. David C. Thompson is the author, and the edition is limited to 250 copies.

Dr. Holmes writes concerning the new Hawthorne romance, "Dr. Grimshawe's Secret": "I feel as one might have felt who had been admitted to Rembrandt's studio. I have been closeted with a magician and admitted within his mysterious circle." Mr. Whittier says: "The work is Hawthorne's. There can be no question about it. It is one of his weird, unmistakable creations—a creation not fully rounded, chaotic, peopled with strange shapes, like our planet in its first discovery. It is powerful, of course, and will be read with interest by his admirers on both sides of the water."

A new work by the Bishop of Rochester, entitled "Christ's Claim on the Young," has appeared in London.

Mr. Trollope's contributions to the stage have not been generally pointed out, much as has been written about him. To be sure, they were of an indirect kind. His "Can You Forgive Her?" furnished Mr. Daly the materials for his play of "Divorce," and Charles Reade's "Shilly-Shally" was founded on "Ralph the Heir."

Louis Ulbach's new novel is entitled "La Confession d'un Abbé" (Paris: Calmann-Lévy). It is the story of a priest who is secretly married, and describes the tortures of his false position. It was awaited with curiosity because the anti-clericals hoped they had won the novelist to their side. But M. Ulbach has no concern with political questions; his priest is neither a freethinker nor a mystic; and the narrative neither supports the church nor opposes it.

The new weekly paper *Life*, is to be—as the name implies—lively and satirical. Mr. J. A. Mitchell, the author and artist of the "Summer School of Philosophy at Mount Desert," is the originator of the paper, and Mr. E. S. Martin is to be the editor. Among the contributors will be Mr. Robert Grant, Mr. G. T. Lanyon and Mr. Arthur Penn.

Mr. Kwong-Ki-Chin, a Chinese gentleman residing in Hartford, Conn., published about two years ago a book entitled: "A Dictionary of English Phrases." It excited much interest, as being, perhaps, the first contribution to English literature by a Chinaman. Since then he has prepared an "English Reading Book for Beginners," a "Comprehensive Geography," a series of "Conversation Books" and a "Manual of Correspondence and Social Usage," to be printed in China for use in the Government schools.

The domestic poem, "The Night before Christmas" has been printed yearly in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, since the first Christmas of the paper's existence—when it was styled the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*—thirty or forty years ago, and from the original type. This is possibly a unique case of "standing matter."

Richard Storrs Willis, a brother of N. P. Willis, will publish soon, through Thorndike Nourse, Detroit, a volume of poems entitled "Pen and Lute."

Mr. Joel Benton will, towards the close of the winter, publish his essay on "Emerson as a Poet," read last summer before the Concord School of Philosophy. A portrait of Emerson will be prefixed to the book, which will also contain a concordance to his poetry, and a bibliography of the periodical articles on Emerson. M. L. Holbrook & Co. are the publishers.

The first volume of the "Old Testament Commentary" edited by Bishop Ellicott was published in London a fortnight since by Messrs. Cassell & Co., and the second volume will be ready for issue in January. The contributors to the Commentary will include the Dean of Canterbury, the Dean of Wells, Dr. Plumtree; Canons Barry, Farrar and Rawlinson; Prof. Stanley Leathes and Dr. Reynolds.

The new English Conservative monthly is to be edited by Mr. Alfred Austin. It is to be a half-crown magazine, and the articles are to be signed.

Miss Kate Foote, a writer for the *Atlantic*, is a sister of Mrs. Senator Hawley. Mrs. Mary Hallock Foote, whose name, both as writer and artist, appears in the *Century*, is the wife of Mrs. Hawley's brother, Mr. Arthur Foote.

The newly established Dutch newspaper of New York, the *Nieuws en Handels Courant*, will begin, in January, a series of articles in both Dutch and English on the early history of New York and the doings of the Knickerbockers.

Specimen pages of the "Century of Authors, 1780-1880" have been sent out by the projector, Mr. William Cushing, Cambridge, Mass. Each part will consist of 80 pages octavo, and the four, or possibly five, volumes will contain each twelve parts. The scheme is unlike Allibone's, in making the biographical feature predominant, and in not mentioning in detail or with bibliographical literalness the works of each author.

Harper & Bros. will publish early in January the seventh edition of Liddell & Scott's "Greek-English Lexicon." The size of the page has been increased, and the columns lengthened a full inch. American scholars have had an important share in the revision.

The Boston *Transcript* will reduce its price from 4 to 3 cents per copy after January 1st.

A very judicious change has been made in the title of *Our Continent*, which has become *The Continent*—a much more striking and less objectionable name.

Björnsterne Björnson, the Norse novelist, is spending the winter with his wife and two daughters in Paris. He is completing a new drama entitled "Over Evne" ("Beyond [his] Means"). Its production will be an event of interest.

Mr. Sergeant Ballantine, so agreeably known to American readers by his book, "Some Experiences of a Barrister's Life," has had a cordial welcome in Philadelphia from both the representatives of law and of literature. The Penn Club gave him a reception, and he was one of the distinguished company at the dinner given by members of the bar to the retiring Chief Justice Sharswood, of our State Supreme Court. The Sergeant is about publishing an American edition of his book, with additions, annotations and corrections, Messrs. J. M. Stoddart & Co., Philadelphia, now having the work in press.

ART NOTES.

THE members of the British Society of Water Colors have received diplomas signed by Her Majesty.

Mr. E. O. Ford is engaged on two statues, one a full-length of Mr. Gladstone, and the other of Mr. Henry Irving in the character of *Hamlet*, both of which he hopes to have finished for next year's exhibition.

Mr. Millais's portrait of Cardinal Newman, which was one of the features of this year's Royal Academy Exhibition, is being engraved by Mr. Barlow.

M. Meissonier, having heard that an unauthorized edition of his works was being prepared in America, writes to M. Bouton as follows:—"M. Lecadre's edition is the only one made with my assistance, the only one which has my approval, and all others are unworthy counterfeits, made to my prejudice, against which I energetically protest."

The *American Exchange and Review* announces a new London project—"a company registered with £1,000,000 stock capital, at £5 per share, which proposes to insure paintings, statuary, marbles, and works of art and vertu against loss or damage by fire, including gas explosions and damage by lightning."

The great national statue of "Germania," which is being executed at Niederwald, near the Rhine, to commemorate the victory of Germany in the Franco-German war, is now being cast in separate pieces at Munich. The head and several other parts have already been completed. Some idea of the magnitude of this work may be gathered from the fact that the total weight of metal in it will amount to not less than forty-five tons.

A third international exhibition of Fine Arts at Munich will be held this year under the patronage of King Louis II. It is proposed that every country shall form a special collective exhibition, the admission to which is to depend upon the decision of a national jury, and the different committees will execute their tasks with the coöperation of foreign members. The exhibition is to open early in July and to close about the end of October.

In May last, the Rhode Island Legislature adopted a resolution appropriating \$10,000 for a statue to the late General and U. S. Senator Burnside, to be paid whenever \$20,000 shall have been subscribed by private persons or otherwise. Towns and cities were authorized to appropriate a fractional part of 1 per cent. of their tax valuations for 1881. The committee having the statue in charge announce that \$13,500 has been subscribed and an effort is now being made to raise this to \$20,000 or \$25,000 and claim the \$10,000 from the State.

The December number of *The Portfolio* has a number of interesting articles, chief among them being an essay on Elton Ware, and continuations of the series by Julia Cortright on "Assisi" and Mr. W. C. Lefroy's scholarly history of "The Ruined Abbeys of Yorkshire." Mr. Lefroy talks in this number of Whitby, and he is well supported by illustrations of his theme. A full-page etching of Whitby by A. Brunet-Debaines is especially noticeable. Another fine etching in the number is by C. O. Murray from H. W. B. Davis's picture "Returning from the Fold." These, as well as a third etching, "Gathering Apples," by T. Riley, are artists' proofs. A number of choice wood engravings are incorporated in the text and the "Art Chronicle" and other Editorial Departments are satisfyingly full.

Henry C. Bispham, the well-known artist, died at Rome on Saturday last, in his 41st year. He was a Philadelphian by birth and studied first with Wm. T. Richards and afterwards with Otto Webber in Paris. His talent developed in the direction of animal painting and he was esteemed one of the best of the younger men in that field. He first attracted especial attention with his "Stampede" at the Centennial Exhibition. Later successes of Mr. Bispham's are his "Roman Bull" belonging to the New York Century Club, "Dead in the Desert," "Hunted Down," and the very fine picture, "A Crouching Lion." He was a busy worker and a frequent exhibitor. Mr. Bispham had made his home in Rome for the last five years.

The Guatemalan Government has issued a decree which will be thankfully received by archaeologists. It has ordered that stone shall no longer be quarried from the remains of antiquity and monuments of the Mayas, for which the country is distinguished.

Sir Frederick Leighton has made much progress with a fine statuette to be enlarged in bronze, of a standing male figure. It represents a sluggard rousing himself. He has also nearly finished the small, life-size figure in oils, of a little girl seated, wearing a white embroidered dress which is enriched with broad gold bands; she has very pale gold-colored hair, blue eyes, delicate rosy complexion, and the sweetest and softest of expressions.

The University of Cincinnati has received a proposition from Mr. Joseph Longworth that the School of Design shall be detached from the University and annexed to the Museum. The proposal involves the guarantee to the Museum Association of an annual income of \$10,000 in perpetuity for the support of the school.

A portrait of Bishop Whittingham, by Huntington, which is to be placed in the General Theological Seminary of New York, is exhibited in Baltimore.

Francis Seymour Haden, the English etcher, was tendered a reception at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts on Tuesday evening by the Philadelphia Society of Etchers. The galleries were crowded by artists, patrons and connoisseurs.

The exhibition of the late Dante Gabriel Rossetti's works at the London Royal Academy will consist of about thirty-five oil paintings, besides water-colors, chalk sketches, etc. Among them will be his first publicly exhibited picture, "The Girlhood of Mary Virgin."

Frank Happersberger, a young American who has been in Europe for several years, is the designer of the Garfield statue whose corner-stone is to be laid in San Francisco next summer.

NEWS SUMMARY.

—In the United States Senate, on Friday, Mr. Bayard, from the Committee on Finance, reported a resolution declaring that whenever the internal revenue tax on tobacco, snuff and cigars is reduced or removed, a proportionate rebate of the tax paid on the stocks should be allowed.

—Special Treasury-agent Heichbold, who has been investigating charges of "enormous smuggling" on the Niagara River, pronounces the charges "extravagant, preposterous and absurd, with scarcely a grain of truth in them."

—Fifteen families of Russian refugees sent by relief associations to different parts of Dakota, are reported to be in danger of starving or freezing to death.

—A movement of troops is contemplated with the object of stationing larger garrisons on the Russian frontier. The erection of large barracks and the double-tracking of some of the eastern railways are projected.

—The Russian Senate has decided to accede to the request of certain Jewish chemists to rescind the order of General Ignatieff forbidding Jews from keeping chemists' shops outside of those parts of the Empire set aside for Jews to reside in.

—Of twelve students who died in Leipsic during the last session of the University, one was killed in a duel and six committed suicide.

—The execution of Overdank at Trieste causes great excitement in Rome, as he was a student in the School of Engineers. One hundred young men made a demonstration in front of the Austrian Embassy on Saturday night, crying "Down with Austria." The military were called out and dispersed the crowd. There have been demonstrations also at Milan and Turin in protest against the execution of Overdank.

—In the Roman Chamber of Deputies on Saturday, a motion was brought forward by the Extreme Left to abolish the Parliamentary oath. The House rejected the motion by a vote of 254 to 26. The Parliamentary Oath bill introduced by the Government was adopted by a vote of 222 to 45.

—A speech of Señor Castelar in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies has caused a sensation. He declared that he would never alter his democratic views, and that he intended to remain a Republican until death. He said that he believed in the ultimate triumph of his cause, and deplored the desertion of Señor Martos and other ex-Republicans.

—The trial of Leon and Armand Peltzer for the murder of M. Bernay was concluded at Brussels on Saturday. The brothers were found guilty on all the counts in the indictment against them, and both were sentenced to death.

—Captain A. C. Nutt, cashier of the State Treasury of Pennsylvania, was shot dead in his room, in a hotel in Uniontown, Pa., on Sunday, by N. L. Dukes, a member of the Fayette county bar, and member-elect of the State Legislature.

—The nomination of George M. Lamson to be U. S. District Attorney for Nebraska has been withdrawn by the President.

—Charles E. Upton, President of the suspended City Bank of Rochester, New York, was arrested on Saturday on a warrant procured by the directors, charging him with grand larceny in embezzling more than \$200,000 of the bank's funds. He was subsequently admitted to bail in the sum of \$20,000.

—"Sandbagging" and street robberies have become frequent in Chicago, seventeen such cases having been reported there since the beginning of this month.

—A family of six, in Fargo, Dakota Territory, have been poisoned by eating canned jelly, and one of the children has died.

—In response to a communication from Hon. William D. Kelley, asking whether the bill reported by the Tariff Commission is satisfactory to the woollen manufacturers, James Dobson has written a reply giving his views in detail on that part of the report which directly concerns the Philadelphia interests in textile manufactures—the wool and woollens.

—The witnesses in the Phoenix Park murder case in Dublin have failed to identify Westgate as one of the assassins.

—M. de Lesseps, presiding at a banquet given by the contractors on public works on Monday in Paris, announced that the scheme for the creation of an inland sea in Africa will be resumed by private enterprise.

—It is confirmed from Lyons that the examination of the papers found in Prince Krapotkine's residence reveals ugly facts. The papers concern even a relative of the Czar.

—The Bishop of Metz has declined to accept the decoration of the Iron Crown accorded him by the Emperor of Germany, because he wishes to keep aloof from all politics.

—In the Spanish Chamber of Deputies on Monday, the Ministerial motion, declaring against any change in the Constitution of 1876, was adopted by a vote of 221 to 18.

—Notice is given of an application, at the next session of the Dominion Parliament, for an act to incorporate the Loyal Orange Association of British America.

—Herr Most arrived in Chicago on Sunday, and was received by a small band of Socialists.

—It is reported from Clinton, Illinois, that forged railroad bonds of De Witt County are in circulation, and that \$20,000 worth have already been presented and rejected.

—Bishop Benson's acceptance of the Archbishopric of Canterbury is officially announced.

—The Khedive's decree degrading Arabi and the other rebel Pashas has been published. Their public degradation was carried out on Sunday afternoon, in the presence of two battalions of the new Egyptian army. Only a few Europeans were present.

—It is rumored in Montreal that Vanderbilt has secured an interest in the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

—Secretary Chandler says it is not true that he has "decided to close one or more navy-yards." Plans for reducing the expenditures in the civil departments of the various yards will, however, be announced shortly.

—The Christmas holiday was quietly observed in this section, but there are an unusual number of disturbances and crimes, occurring chiefly through drink, reported from various points. A dispatch from New Orleans says the holiday "was probably the most disorderly and disgraceful ever observed" in that city.

—A meeting of the pig-iron manufacturers of the United States was held in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, to form a protective association.

—In the French Chamber of Deputies, on Tuesday, a bill granting subventions to the public schools was adopted after an animated debate on the question.

—It is reported from Victoria, British Columbia, that forty Chinese women have landed there, thirty-two of whom were sold to Chinamen living in the United States, eight being reserved for Victoria. It is feared that the traffic in human beings will be carried on at that port on a large scale next year. Another item of interest in the Chinese question is a decision of the United States Treasury Department that a "Chinese wet-nurse must be considered as a laborer, and as such is excluded from admission to the United States under the provisions of the act restricting Chinese immigration."

—Chief among the obituary items of the week are the deaths of Ex-Governor B. J. Humphreys, of Miss.; Rear-Admiral Jas. F. Schenck, retired, U. S. N.; Cardinal Donnet; Dr. Corvisart, the eminent French physician, and Senor Zaldúa, President of the United States of Colombia.

DRIFT.

—The report of the United States Commissioner of Patents shows an increase of business over the year ending June 30, 1881. The number of applications for patents was 27,622, an increase of 4,690 over that year. The number of applications for designs was 854; for reissues, 407; for registration of trade-marks, 737; for registration of labels, 442; and the number of caveats filed was 2,455. The number of patents granted, including reissues and designs, was 17,713; of trade-marks registered, 1,079; of labels registered, 223. There were 1,637 patents withheld for non-payment of fees, and 5,123 patents expired. The total receipts of the office were \$930,894.14, an increase of \$140,968.62 over the last preceding year. The total expenditures of the office, not including printing, were \$651,719.50.

—Rev. Dr. Lansing of the American Mission at Cairo, who has labored in Egypt for upward of twenty-five years, expresses the opinion in the *Catholic Presbyterian* that the Mohammedan sovereignty should be maintained in Egypt, and a policy of conciliation pursued toward the Mohammedan population. He thinks the matter of religious freedom should remain undisturbed for the present, so as not to excite any farther than need be, "exasperated Moslem sensibilities." As things stand, he says Egypt is a whole century in advance of Turkey in toleration and religious freedom, the Khedive and the subordinate authorities having given distinct and unequivocal decisions in favor of religious liberty. That is all that is needed at present.

—"Perley" (Mr. Ben. Perley Poore, whose extended acquaintance with Washington gives his gossip more than ordinary value) says in a letter to the *Boston Journal*: Senator Ben Wade, when he was President protem. of the Senate (during Johnson's Presidency, 1865-69), was equally anxious for an early adjournment. One day when Senator Garrett Davis had the floor, and lifted the flood-gate of his ceaseless oratory, Wade stood it until it was four o'clock, when he said: "Will the Senator from Kentucky suspend his remarks for the introduction of a motion?" "Certainly," said Mr. Davis, who had the courtesy of the old school. "The Senator from Ohio," said Mr. Wade, "moves that the Senate do now adjourn. Senators, those in favor say aye, those opposed no! The motion is carried, and the Senate stands adjourned until to-morrow at twelve o'clock." As Mr. Wade was the only Senator from Ohio in the Chamber, or even in the Senate at that time, his coolness in putting his own motion and declaring it carried was much admired. It was the fear that Wade would appoint Charles Sumner Secretary of State and rule the South with an iron rod that made several Republican Senators vote to acquit Johnson on the charges for which he was impeached, and thus to exclude Wade from the White House.

—The operation of the free libraries—or, as we should say, public libraries—is watched with much interest in England. At Manchester more than two millions of readers visited the free library during the twelve months just ended. To nearly half of these books were issued, the remainder presumptively having used the libraries merely to read periodicals on the tables. Altogether, considerably more than a million of volumes were handed over the counters, of which more than 210,000 were used in the reference library. The attendance on Sundays averages about 4,000. Four of the branch libraries are now, it appears, provided with special reading rooms for boys, who have used in the course of the year of 190,493 volumes. Mr. Baker, Mayor of Manchester, states that the "boys' rooms" continue to grow in favor, and are well filled during the whole time they are open with quiet and interested juveniles.

—A number of New York clergymen have agreed to recommend from their pulpits the banishment of wine and other liquors from the New Year's refreshment tables set out for the entertainment of callers. To some extent this recommendation has been given before, but neither as generally nor as effectively as it will be given now. Much benefit has resulted from it in previous years in inducing many ladies to refrain from giving their guests intoxicating liquors. The evil, which was formerly a great one, has largely decreased in the circles known as "good society." The feeling against it now partakes of the nature of a crusade. Those who have closely investigated the cause and effect of the mischief, declare that thousands of young men have been made drunkards by partaking of liquor at the invitation of ladies on whom they called on New Year's Day.

—A large wall chart of the statistics of the Mexican Republic was prepared last June by order of the Secretary of State. The work was entrusted to Lieut. Col. Bodo Von Glumer of the National army, and it has a considerable permanent as well as temporary value. In the middle was set a topographic map, constructed from the best available sources by the same engineer, representing the "Heart of Anahuac [the central Mexican tablelands] and its Railways." This map has since been made available by itself, in a pocket folding form by B. Westermann & Co., of New York, and it has value in view of the great railroad interests which our citizens now have in Mexico. The scale is four miles to the inch, and the area depicted is that adjacent to and stretching between the two railway centres of Puebla and the City of Mexico. The delineation is very clear, and the explanations have been turned into English.

—A statement of analyses of wines made at the Municipal Laboratory of Paris has been published. All wines and liquors imported into France are subjected to analysis at the Customs before delivery to the importers, and if found adulterated they are not admitted to entry. There is, however, no inspection or examination of wines exported. In 1881, 3,100 samples were analyzed, the result being that 279 were found to be good, 991 passable, and 1,731 bad, while in the first five months of the present year 1,869 samples were analyzed, out of which 372 were good, 683 passable, and 814 bad, 145 of these latter being pronounced decidedly injurious. The American Consul in Paris calls the attention of this Government to the manner in which French wines are adulterated. A liquid is largely sold as wine which is manufactured of water, vinegar and logwood, with a tenth part of common wine to cover the fraud. Not only

is wine falsified by adding cider, sugar, molasses, tartaric, acetic or tannic acid, sulphuric acid, lime, alum, bitter almonds, leaves of the cherry laurel, etc., but it is largely manufactured without the slightest aid from the grape.

COMMUNICATION.

THE TENNESSEE REPUDIATION, AGAIN.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN:

I HAD little expectation, when I wrote a short communication in a recent issue of THE AMERICAN, of engaging in a newspaper controversy. Mr. J. E. MacGowan's answer to what I wrote, and the tone of his reply, render it necessary, I think, to my self-respect, to point out the flagrant injustice of his assertions. In my communication I stated facts as such, and made what I considered a just distinction between what might be my private judgment and what was general notoriety. This Mr. MacGowan fails to do. Mr. MacGowan says: "There is not in 'J. P.'s' entire letter a single truthful statement," and arranges in tabulated form my errors.

(1.) "The debt is less than \$29,000,000." I said expressly that the debt is, in round figures, \$30,000,000. For a justification of this figure of speech, I must refer Mr. MacGowan to the rudiments. The point I made did not depend upon the exact amount of the State debt, but upon the disparity between the amount held by those willing to fund at a given rate and the entire amount of outstanding indebtedness.

(2.) "Over \$13,000,000 of the bonds had been funded under the existing settlement when 'J. P.' dated his communication of which the above is a part." I said: "The holders of about \$8,000,000 of this sum agreed to accept the Republican settlement." This trick of Mr. MacGowan's is known among newspaper men as a "piece of journalism." The question was as to the quantity of force which entered into the Republican settlement and as to the amount of the debt of Tennessee held by those whose "voluntary offer" is supposed to have moved the last Legislature to settle it at the figure finally agreed upon. That amount has been estimated by the Republicans at about \$8,000,000. The amount funded to date had nothing to do with the action of the Legislature. Not having the consent of the holders of more than \$8,000,000 to settle at these figures, the settlement was arbitrary, and in so far as the creditors not heard from at the passage of the law were concerned, was *pro tanto* repudiation.

(3.) "The settlement at 60 cents on the dollar, and 3, 4, 5 and 6 per cent. interest was limited in its operation until January 1, 1883." Why this limitation? It was not made with any intention of making better provision for those who had not accepted the settlement before that time? The explanation given to save the reputation of the Republican party in Tennessee as debt-payers is simply extravagant. "Those who passed it thought possibly (sic) Tennessee might achieve another Legislature composed of others than demagogues and repudiators, and that their successors would of course take care of any balance of unfunded bonds." It may be that the people of Tennessee are not judicious in their choice, but there is no doubt of the fact that they are very generally satisfied with their lack of ability to bring together another Legislature composed of statesmen such as were members of the last General Assembly. But Mr. MacGowan's remark trespasses upon our credulity in view of the fact that the limitation was a part of the settlement, and that the settlement was regarded as final by the Republicans.

(4.) "What Democrats in Tennessee have claimed, that a large share of the State debt was issued fraudulently. Savage and his handful of repudiatorist followers, none others." Judge John L. T. Sneed, recently a Judge of the Supreme Bench of Tennessee, will scarcely be regarded as a follower of Savage. In a speech delivered November 26, 1881, at LaGrange, in this State, he says: "The railroad bonds, as they are called, were secured by a statutory mortgage on the road bed, iron rails, and, indeed, the property generally of the respective railroads to which they were issued; and, after 1854, it was part of the contract with the railroad companies that no bond of the State should be negotiated for less than its par value. The bonds, however, had no mark upon them by which they could be identified as the property of any particular railroad, and millions of those issued within the first half-dozen years after the war, were negotiated, in positive violation of law, at prices ranging from forty to seventy-five cents on the dollar, and, after the first negotiation, became marketable only at smaller figures still. They were tainted with such a suspicion of irregularity and fraud that the whole batch of them fell into disrepute, and became at one time almost unsalable at any price in the stock market."

Mr. MacGowan further says: "'J. P.' says about \$3,000,000 of the debt is undisputed. This is the old fraudulent talk about the 'debt proper' which actually amounts to \$8,000,000." This is simply an assertion of the writer. I happened to be a delegate to the State convention and it never occurred to any one that the "debt proper" was other than the old Union Bank, Bank of Tennessee, Capitol, Hermitage, Agricultural Bureau, Turnpike, Hiwassee Railroad Company, East Tennessee and Georgia, and La Grange and Memphis Railroad Company Bonds, the outstanding amount of which was about \$2,000,000, with some years' accrued interest. The figures alluded to by Mr. MacGowan were very dextrously "cooked up" by the Nashville *Banner*, after the convention adjourned.

It is but charitable to attribute to nothing worse than Mr. MacGowan's ignorance the statement that "no committee 'composed' of men of conspicuous integrity" ever reported that the debt of Tennessee, as funded by the Democrats in 1873, was tainted with fraud, and a citizen who can read and write ought to know the story for a falsehood." As regards the integrity of the committee alluded to I have no issue to join. They at least had the reputation of honesty before Mr. MacGowan's letter. On the 22d day of January 1879, a committee "of five upon the part of the House and three upon the part of the Senate" was appointed to investigate the State debt. (House Joint Resolutions XVIII., p. 357, acts of 1879.) The names of the gentlemen appointed were S. F. Wilson, R. H. Smith, John M. Driver, D. L. Snodgrass, Thomas E. Haynes, N. Gregg, J. W. Clapp and J. H. Smith. I refer to the report of the committee in substantiation of my statement. There was a minority report, signed by two members of the committee.

In conclusion, I would like to say that there is one and but one sentiment in Mr. MacGowan's letter which is fair and unprejudiced. He says there is not an atom of excuse for repudiation in Tennessee. He forgets or ignores the fact that the repudiation is carried on alike by Republicans and Democrats. The people of this State—rightfully or wrongfully as may be—believe in repudiating the entire railroad debt. All attempts to pay the debt in full were fruitless. It could not be done. The only alternative was to get them to pay as much as possible. The Republicans repudiated forty cents on the dollar, the Democrats fifty. There is therefore just this difference between the two parties on this question. The Democrats, of course, think the difference on other questions is largely in their favor. There is no denying that this is a sad state of affairs, but the people to cast stones at us are not those who dwell in the tents of Tennessee Republicanism, or who followed Mr. Fussell in his spiritless canvass. The Republicans lacked the courage to face the square issue of paying the debt in full or repudiation, as did the followers of Mr. Fussell, who took their stand on the inviolability of a contract which had not been consummated. They now join in crying out against the Democrats and their demagoguery and repudiation. We, as Democrats,

simply protest against having such a calf-skin hanged upon our recreant limbs. Mr. MacGowan is a repudiator, if he advocated the payment of less than 100 cents on the dollar of every cent of the State debt. If repudiation is "folly in the ignorant or villainy in the unprincipled demagogue," then he is, if ignorant, only ten per cent. less foolish, and if a demagogue, only ten per cent. less villainous, than any other man in the State. Accept my apologies for intruding so much upon your space, but the undignified and unjust tone of the letter in response to which this is written rendered it unavoidable.

JAMES PHILAN.

Memphis, Tenn., December 20, 1882.

FINANCIAL AND TRADE REVIEW.

THURSDAY, December 28.

WITH the week broken by holiday engagements, there has been little notable activity in financial circles. The business of the year is being closed, and many merchants are more busily engaged in the stating of accounts than in the prosecution of new engagements. In a general way, the condition of the country is free from occasion for much concern. The signals of warning, to which we referred three months ago or more, had their effect in preventing too sanguine calculations as to the future, and checked to a large degree the extent of speculative ventures. The iron and steel trade, as mentioned last week, appear to have a very good outlook for the coming year.

The following were the closing quotations (sales) of leading stocks, in the Philadelphia markets yesterday: Lehigh Valley Railroad, 63¾; St. Paul & Duluth, 38; United Companies of New Jersey, 186¾; Pennsylvania Railroad, 59¾; Northern Pacific, 46; Ditto, preferred, 84¾; Reading Railroad, 26½; Lehigh Navigation, 38¾. The market was quoted "steady" at the close.

The New York market, yesterday, made the following quotations (bid) at the close, for leading stocks:

Central Pacific, 86¾; Canada Southern, 67¾; C., C. & I. C., 3¾; Denver and Rio Grande, 40; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 128; Erie, 39½; Lake Shore, 116¾; Louisville and Nashville, 53½; Michigan Central, 101¾; Missouri Pacific, 102¾; Northwestern, 137¾; New York Central, 128; New Jersey Central, 70; Ontario and Western, 25¾; Omaha, 52¾; Omaha preferred, 113¾; Pacific Mail, 43; St. Paul, 107¾; Texas Pacific, 40¾; Union Pacific, 102¾; Wabash, 35¾; Wabash preferred, 54¾; Western Union, 81.

The New York bank statement, on the 23d inst., showed a decrease in surplus reserve, of \$807,750, but there remained an excess of \$5,272,175 over legal requirements. The following were the chief items in the statement:

	Dec. 16.	Dec. 23.	Differences.
Loans,	\$307,143,800	\$309,774,400	Inc. \$2,630,600
Specie,	57,856,500	59,148,900	Inc. 1,292,400
Legal tenders,	20,326,500	18,835,500	Dec. 1,491,000
Deposits,	288,402,300	290,848,900	Inc. 2,436,600
Circulation,	18,059,100	18,163,100	Inc. 104,000

The Philadelphia banks, in their statement of the same date, showed an increase in reserve of \$307,669 in reserve. The principal items were

	Dec. 16.	Dec. 23.	Differences.
Loans,	\$73,080,196	\$72,444,817	Dec. \$635,379
Reserve,	16,679,155	16,986,824	Inc. 307,669
National Bank Notes	665,580	663,972	Dec. 1,608
Due from Banks,	6,192,746	5,937,691	Dec. 255,055
Due to Banks,	11,552,216	11,222,847	Dec. 329,369
Deposits,	52,344,484	51,684,821	Dec. 659,663
Circulation,	9,790,600	9,797,266	Inc. 6,666
Clearings,	56,026,214	52,214,193	Dec. 3,812,021

The imports of specie at New York last week amounted to \$357,786. The exports were \$188,000, of which \$100,000 was American gold coin, sent to Aspinwall. The imports for the year, thus far, amount to \$7,264,924, and the exports to \$44,796,959, making the net outgo \$37,531,835. For the corresponding period of last year, the net imports were nearly 44 millions—showing a change in the specie movement of over 80 millions.

The imports of dry-goods at New York are lighter than at the corresponding time of last year; but the total import of the year, so far, is greater than in 1881—the figures being \$129½ millions for 1882, and \$111¼ millions for 1881.

The statement of the business of all the lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company east of Pittsburgh and Erie, for November, 1882, as compared with the same month in 1881, shows

An increase in gross earnings of	\$533,610
An increase in expenses of	391,592

An increase in net earnings of \$142,018

The eleven months of 1882, as compared with the same period in 1881, show

An increase in gross earnings of	\$4,530,233
An increase in expenses of	3,493,838

An increase in net earnings of \$1,036,395

All lines west of Pittsburgh and Erie for the eleven months of 1882 show a surplus over all liabilities of \$1,865,628, being a decrease as compared with the same period in 1881 of \$874,380.

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